

# love★com™



**Lovely ★  
Complex**

Story & Art by

**Aya Nakahara**

**2**





Shojo Beat

# love★com

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**Aya Nakahara**

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### **The Story So Far...**

First-year high school student Risa Koizumi is 5'7". She and Aitsushi Ôtani (5'11") are considered their class's lopsided comedy duo, but actually all they do is quarrel. However, when Risa falls for Suzuki, a guy in a different class, and Ôtani falls for Risa's friend Chiharu, the two of them team up to get the love they want. Unfortunately, Suzuki and Chiharu are attracted to each other, and Risa and Ôtani end up kissing their hopes goodbye when the other two start going out—with Risa and Ôtani's help. So the mismatched duo make a bet over who can get together with someone first! But one day after school, the "love fortune" machine they play just for laughs tells them they're 100% compatible! It's true they have a lot in common...except it turns out that Ôtani's pretty popular, and Risa isn't. Starting to panic, she goes to a party to meet people—only to run into Ôtani! Although Risa does her best to find herself a boyfriend at the party, all that happens is she discovers she gets along with Ôtani much better than she ever expected..

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Love★Com* Vol. 1, available at bookstores everywhere!!





Story & Art by  
**Aya Nakahara**

**2**

**Good Luck!**



# love★com

Love&Peace,  
Love&Love







## CHAPTER 5



THIS, BY THE WAY, IS AN EXAMPLE OF A GIRL WHO IS NOT IN LOVE.

THERE IS NO EXCITEMENT IN MY LIFE... NONE...

ALL I DO EVERY DAY IS EAT AND SLEEP, EAT AND SLEEP...

AAAAAH!



RIGHT, CHIHARU?

YOUR STANDARDS ARE JUST TOO HIGH, RISA.

HUH...?

YOU DID SO MEET PEOPLE.

*At the karaoke night.*

I WANNA MEET SOMEBODY... I NEVER MEET ANYBODY ...

AND YOU FOUND SOMETHING WRONG WITH EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM, DIDN'T YOU?



...FORGET  
IT...

MAYBE  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT, MY  
STANDARDS  
ARE TOO  
HIGH...



BUT THAT  
DOESN'T  
MEAN I  
THOUGHT  
I'D EVER  
FIND SOME-  
ONE LIKE  
THAT FOR  
REAL...

YOU ASKED  
ME WHAT  
KINDA GUY  
I'D LIKE,  
SO I  
TOLD YOU,  
THAT'S ALL...

HEY!  
JUST CUZ I  
DON'T HAVE  
A BOYFRIEND  
DOESN'T  
MEAN MY  
STANDARDS  
ARE TOO  
HIGH,  
OKAY?!

CRY



IF THINGS  
DON'T  
CHANGE  
FOR ME  
SOON,  
I'M IN BIG  
TROUBLE.

WE'RE  
IN **BIG**  
TROUBLE,  
KOIZUMI.

HAS THIS  
GIRL BEEN  
DRINKING  
OR SOME-  
THING?

WHAT A  
JOKE!

MY  
STAN-  
DARDS?!  
TOO  
HIGH?!  
LIKE,  
HOW?!

HA

HA

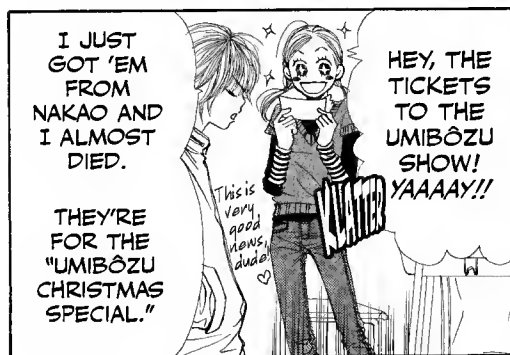
HA

HA

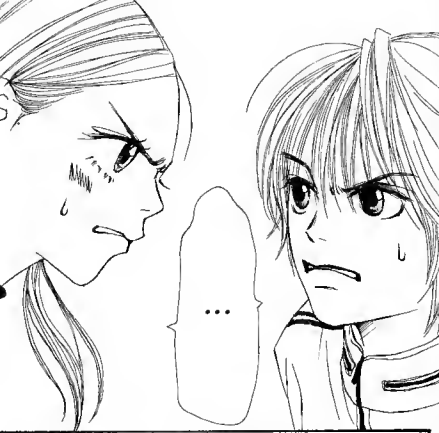
HA

I'M  
REALLY  
STARTING  
TO LOSE  
IT THESE  
DAYS.









...



What did I do to deserve this...

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Why... why Christmas, of all days...?



BEATS ME!! CUZ YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I WANNA SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH!

OH, YEAH?! WELL, **SAME HERE!!**

WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH YOU, OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD?!



WHERE YOU PLANNIN' TO SWEEP ME?!

SWEEP AWAY SOMETHING **THIS** BIG AND THE DRAINS'LL GET CLOGGED.



I REFUSE TO GO OUT ON "ROMANTIC DATE NIGHT FOR PEOPLE IN LOVE" AS ALL HANSHIN-KYOJIN!

NO WAY!

MAYBE YOU'LL GET SWEEPED AWAY BY ALL THE ROMANCE IN THE AIR AND FALL IN LOVE!



JUST GO TO THE SHOW TOGETHER, YOU GUYS.



...THERE  
IS NO WAY  
WE'D FALL  
IN LOVE  
JUST FROM  
BEING OUT  
TOGETHER  
ON  
CHRISTMAS  
NIGHT...

ACCORDING  
TO THAT  
"LOVE  
FORTUNE"  
MACHINE,  
ÔTANI AND I  
ARE MADE  
FOR EACH  
OTHER.

...NO  
MATTER  
HOW  
ROMANTIC  
IT IS  
DOWN-  
TOWN.

BUT  
WHILE IT'S  
TRUE WE  
HAVE A LOT  
IN COMMON  
AND EVERY-  
THING...

I THINK  
I'M  
COMING  
DOWN  
WITH A  
COLD.

JEEZ!  
THAT WAS  
ONE BIG,  
LOUD,  
UGLY  
SNEEZE!

YOU  
REALLY  
SERIOUS  
ABOUT  
WANTING  
A BOY-  
FRIEND?!

HYAAAGH-  
CHOOMPH!!

...  
...UH-  
OH...

HM?

9.

Hello, Nakahara  
here with Volume  
2...ta-da!

Lately, every time  
I see somebody  
I haven't met in  
a while, they say  
"Gosh, you've lost  
weight..." and give  
me this pitying look.

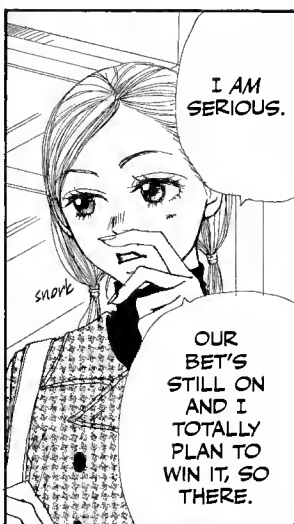
I think it's because  
I've been staying  
up all night and  
generally leading  
an unhealthy life.  
So, I joined a sports  
club to try and  
get some exercise.  
I started taking  
Tai Chi classes,  
which is something  
I've always wanted  
to do.

But breathing is  
kind of complicated  
in Tai Chi, and I  
get all mixed up.  
The teacher will say,  
"Breathe in while  
you do this and  
that..." and I keep  
breathing in until I  
just about keel over.

Maybe I'm just  
not cut out for  
this sorta thing...  
I was hopeless  
at aerobics too...



BUT  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE ANY  
PLANS FOR  
CHRISTMAS,  
DO YOU?



I AM  
SERIOUS.

OUR  
BET'S  
STILL ON  
AND I  
TOTALLY  
PLAN TO  
WIN IT, SO  
THERE.



YOU  
KNOW THAT  
MACHINE?  
THAT ONE WAS  
ASTROLOGY-  
BASED...

...SO IF  
WE DO  
ANOTHER ONE  
BASED ON  
BLOOD TYPE  
OR SOMETHING,  
I BET WE'LL  
GET A  
DIFFERENT  
RESULT.

OKAY.

I MAY  
FORGIVE YOU,  
DEPENDING  
ON WHAT YOU  
GET ME FOR  
CHRISTMAS.

ALL  
RIGHT,  
ALL  
RIGHT.



...WELL,  
NO.

...THERE'S  
NO WAY NOBU  
OR CHIHARU  
WILL HANG OUT  
WITH ME ON  
CHRISTMAS...

EVEN WITH  
THE DIRTY  
MOVIE AND  
THE 18%  
COMPATIBILITY  
AND ALL  
THAT...



GUESS  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

YOU ASK  
ME, WE  
COULD TAKE  
ALL THE  
TIME IN THE  
WORLD AND  
STILL HAVE  
NO CHANCE  
OF THAT.



SO LET'S  
JUST NIP  
DOWN TO  
THE SHOW  
AND ZIP  
BACK HOME  
AS SOON  
AS IT'S  
OVER.

SO  
THERE'S  
NO CHANCE  
WE GET  
SWEPT  
AWAY AND  
FALL IN  
LOVE.



AT THE  
VERY LEAST,  
THEY GOTTA  
COVER THEIR  
NOSE AND  
MOUTH  
WITH THEIR  
HAND...

LET'S  
JUST SAY  
CHICKS WHO  
SNEEZE  
LIKE OLD  
GEEZERS  
ARE OUT.



WHAT  
KIND OF  
GIRL DO  
YOU LIKE,  
ANYWAY?  
YOU GOT  
A TYPE?

WHO,  
ME?



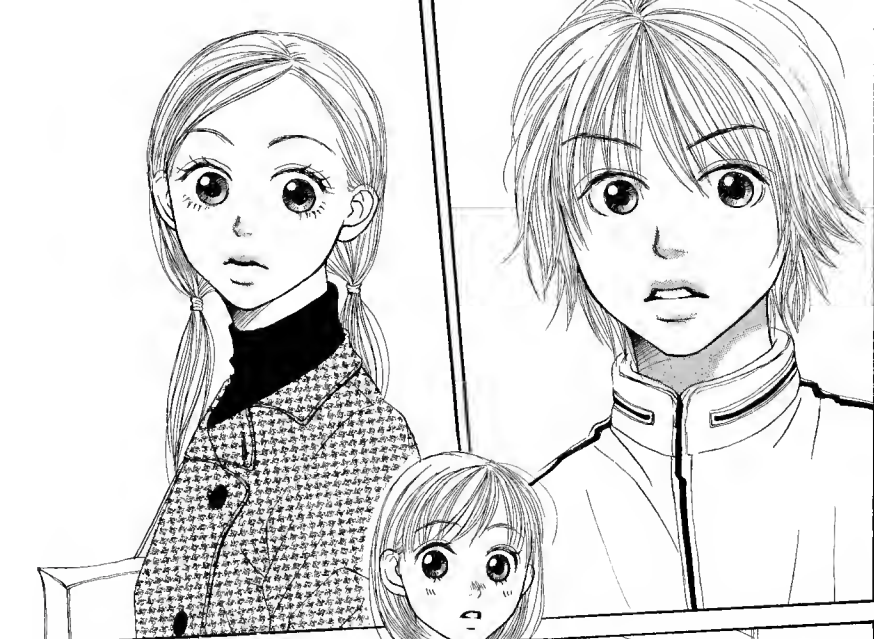
HUH?

SEE  
HER?  
LIKE  
THAT...

HEY.

...CHOO!







GOSH...

THAT  
WAS  
FREAKY  
...

UH...  
OKAY...  
YOU?

HOW'VE  
YOU  
BEEN  
...?

Fine  
...

Good.

I  
THOUGHT  
SHE WAS  
CHIHARU  
FOR A  
SECOND  
...



COME 'ERE,  
COME 'ERE.  
HEY, ÔTANI.

WHADDAYA  
WANT?



tak  
tak

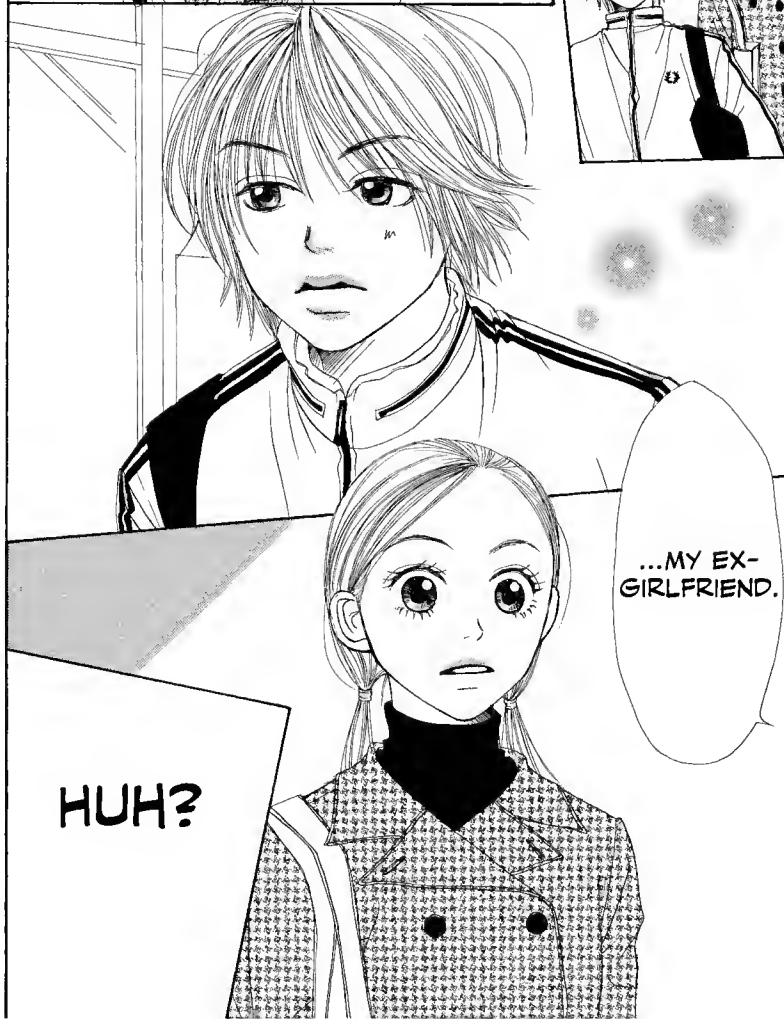


I MEAN,  
SHE  
LOOKS  
EXACTLY  
LIKE  
HER...

UM...

YEAH,  
BYE.

I'M IN A  
HURRY...  
SO.





WHY  
WOULD  
I MAKE  
SOMETHING  
LIKE  
THAT UP?

NO  
WAY!  
FOR  
REAL?!

I DON'T  
BELIEVE IT!  
I MEAN,  
YOU?!  
A GIRL-  
FRIEND?!

NO  
WAAAAA!!  
I MEAN,  
HOOOW?!

HEY.  
WHAT'S  
THAT  
MEAN?

I  
NEVER  
DID!!

DON'T  
SAY IT  
LIKE  
YOU'RE  
PROUD  
OF IT!!

HOW?!  
IT HAPPENS,  
OKAY?!  
PEOPLE HAVE  
BOYFRIENDS  
AND GIRL-  
FRIENDS IN  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL,  
OKAY?!

WHAAA-  
AAAAT  
?!

NO  
WAAAY!

OMI-  
GOD!

WHAT'S  
WITH  
THIS  
REA-  
TION?!

SO HE  
USED TO  
HAVE A  
GIRL-  
FRIEND...

HIS EX-  
GIRL-  
FRIEND  
...?

ÔTANI...

...HAD  
A GIRL-  
FRIEND...



HOW  
DARE HE,  
THAT  
LITTLE  
SHRIMP?!!

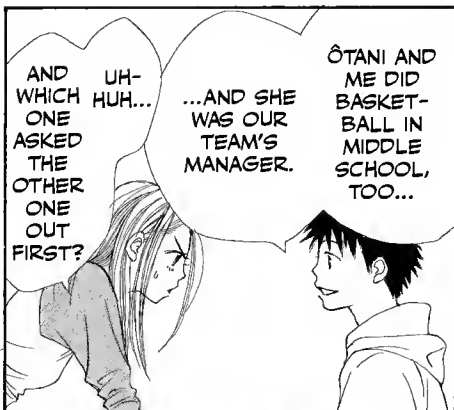




WHEN DID THEY BREAK UP?!

BUT THAT WAS AT THE START OF OUR SECOND YEAR, AND THEY STAYED TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME AFTER THAT.

A LITTLE BEFORE GRADUATION? AND THEN THEY WENT TO DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOLS, SO I DON'T THINK THEY'VE SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE.



AND WHICH ONE UH- HUH... ASKED THE OTHER ONE OUT FIRST?

...AND SHE WAS OUR TEAM'S MANAGER.

ÔTANI AND ME DID BASKETBALL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, TOO...



...THEY SEEMED TO LIKE EACH OTHER SO EVERYBODY GOT THEM TOGETHER.

IT WASN'T REALLY LIKE THAT... IT WAS MORE LIKE...



I AM NOT!! THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT!!

SOME-BODY'S JEA-LOUS! SOME-BODY'S FREAKING OUT!

THAT'S FOR REAL...

WHICH MEANS THEY WENT OUT FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS.

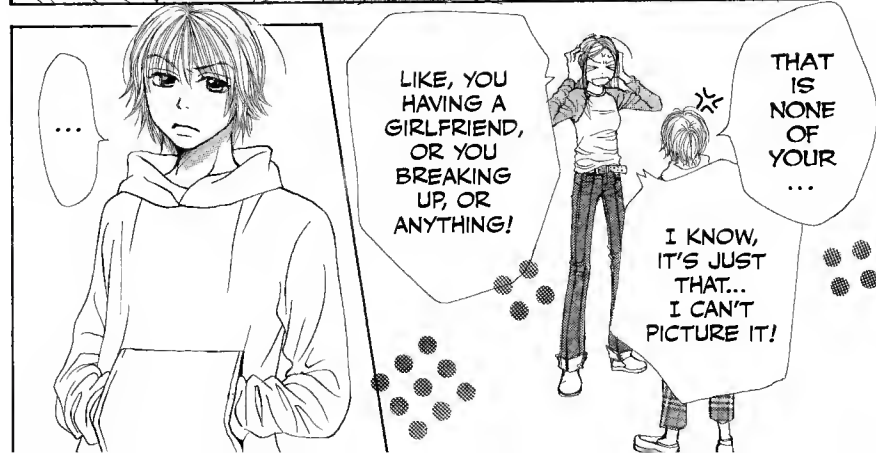
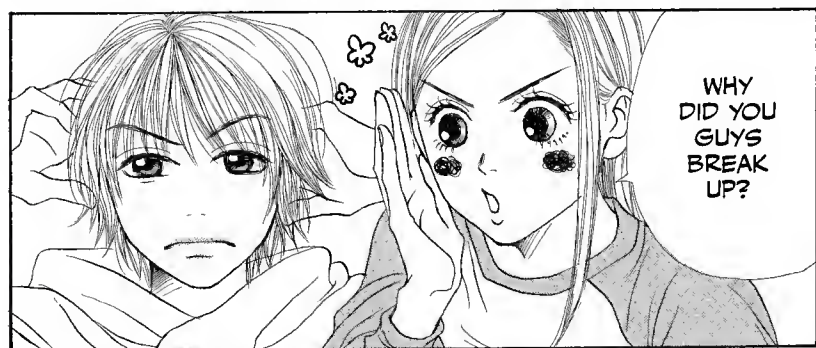


I AM KIND OF FREAKING OUT, THOUGH...

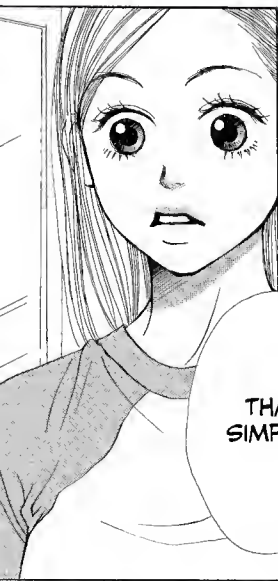
THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.



MM- HMMMM.







THAT  
SIMPLE.

SAID SHE  
HAD A BIG  
CRUSH ON  
SOMEBODY  
ELSE.



...WE  
DIDN'T  
BREAK  
UP.

SHE  
DUMPED  
ME.

WHAT?



TALK  
ABOUT  
RUBBING  
SALT INTO  
AN OPEN  
WOUND,  
MAN...



...WAS LIKE,  
SIX FOOT  
SEVEN.  
I MEAN,  
EVERYONE  
CALLED  
HIM "GIANT  
BABA."

SO THAT  
WAS A  
PRETTY  
HUGE  
SHOCK  
FOR ME  
TO START  
WITH...

...BUT  
THEN IT  
TURNED  
OUT THAT  
THE GUY  
SHE HAD  
A CRUSH  
ON...



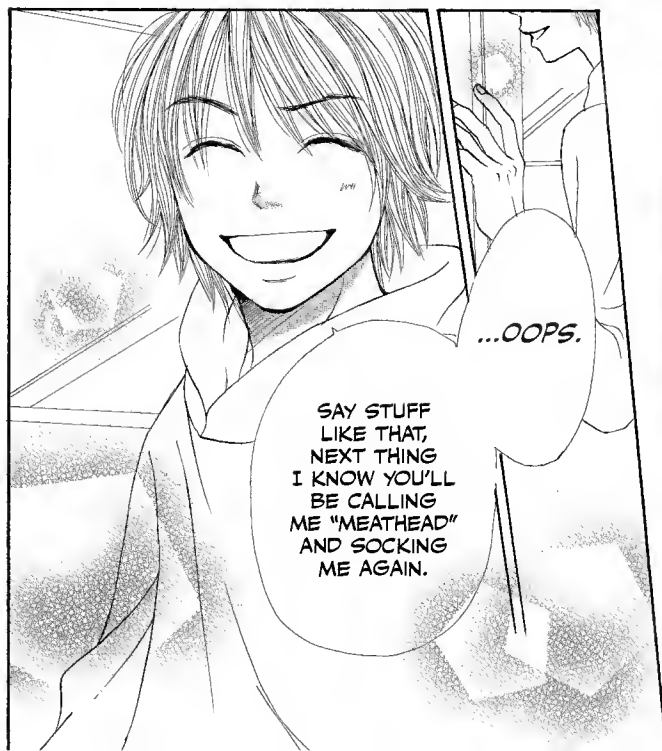
OKAY,  
BUT  
STILL.

EITHER WAY,  
IT'S GONNA  
MAKE YOU WAY  
MORE SENSITIVE  
ABOUT SOME-  
THING THAT  
BOTHERED YOU  
A LOT IN THE  
FIRST PLACE.



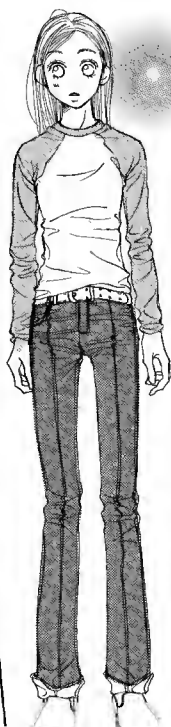
YEAH, BUT  
HE JUST  
HAPPENED  
TO BE TALL,  
RIGHT?

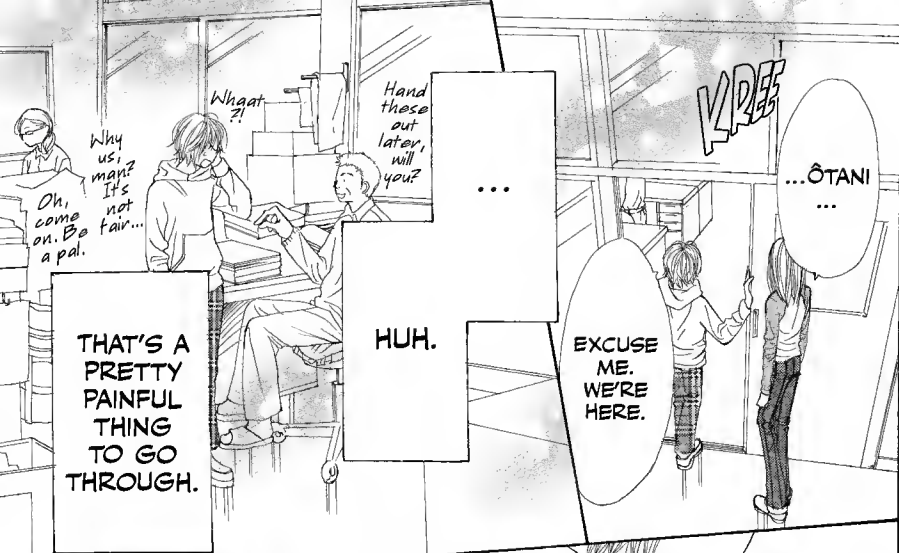
IT'S NOT  
LIKE SHE  
PICKED  
HIM 'CUZ  
OF HIS  
HEIGHT.



...OOPS.

SAY STUFF  
LIKE THAT,  
NEXT THING  
I KNOW YOU'LL  
BE CALLING  
ME "MEATHEAD"  
AND SOCKING  
ME AGAIN.





Moved  
to  
tears

...I  
KNOW  
HOW  
YOU FEEL  
SO WELL  
IT HURTS,  
KID.

ÔTANI...

HUH  
?!

BA-  
BYOOOM

AFTER  
GOING  
THROUGH  
SOME-  
THING  
LIKE  
THAT...

...WHO  
COULD  
BLAME  
YOU FOR  
HAVING A  
COMPLEX  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
HEIGHT?

See  
ya!  
Bye!!

DON'T  
GIVE  
UP,  
ÔTANI.

She's  
cute. Who's  
that?

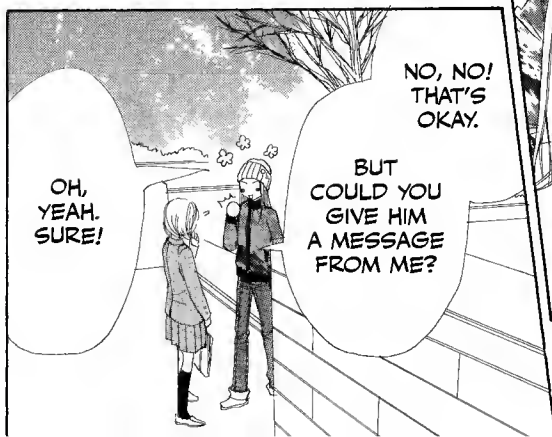
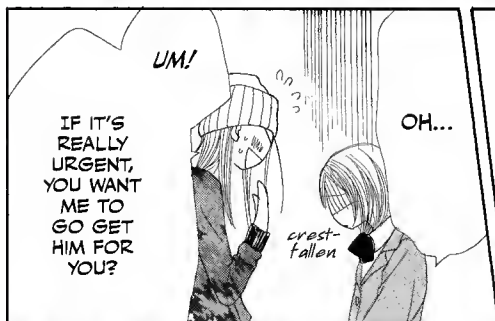
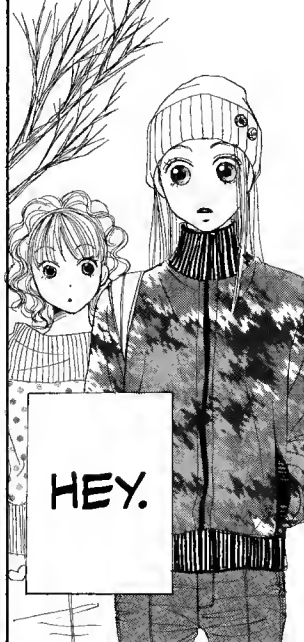
BE  
POSITIVE!  
KEEP  
TRYING,  
ÔTANI,  
AND ONE  
DAY...





IT'S HER...

OH...





...IN OTHER  
WORDS, HE  
GOES FOR  
THE TOTAL  
OPPOSITE  
OF ME.

HE LIKES  
GIRLS  
WHO'RE  
SMALL  
AND CUTE  
AND KINDA  
QUIET...

SO  
THAT'S  
THE  
TYPE HE  
GOES  
FOR.

SHE'S  
PRETTY  
DARN  
CUTE...

THU

FRUIT

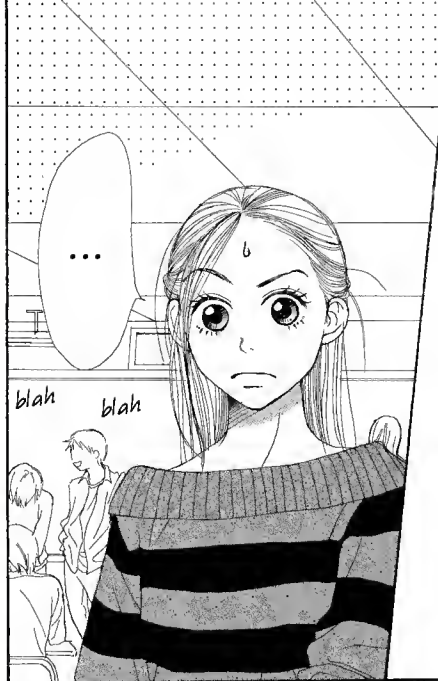
...OH.

THE  
PARTY'S  
ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup>,  
RIGHT?  
ISN'T THAT  
THE DAY OF  
THE UMIBÔZU  
SHOW?

URGH!

NOT THAT  
I CARE  
ONE WAY  
OR THE  
OTHER!!

HEY,  
RISA...



...WHAT?



GO  
TO THE  
PARTY AND  
YOU'LL  
FIND OUT.

HOW  
WOULD I  
KNOW?

BETCHA  
IT'S "LET'S  
GET BACK  
TOGETHER,"  
HM?

SHE  
REALLY  
WANTS YOU  
TO COME  
BECAUSE  
SHE HAS  
SOMETHING  
TO TELL  
YOU.

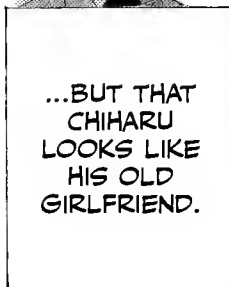
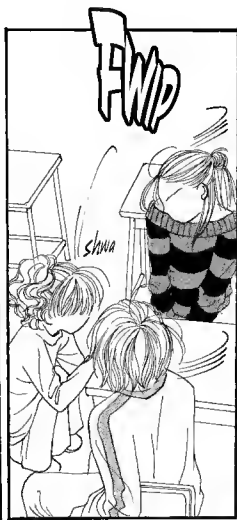
...LIKE  
WHAT?

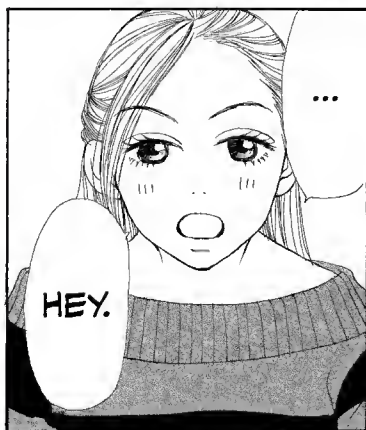
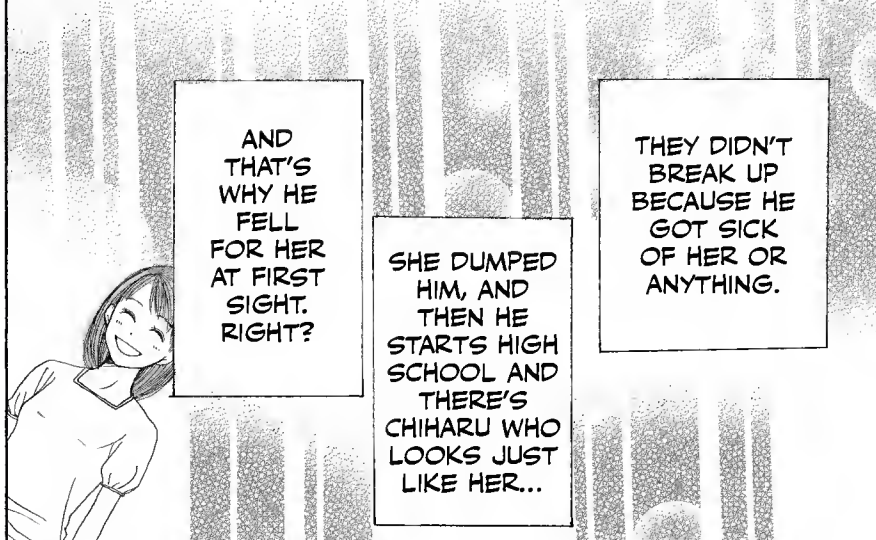
...WOW,  
THAT  
REALLY  
GOT HIS  
ATTENTION...

LIKE  
I SAID.





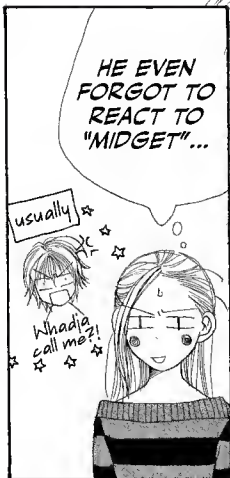




SO  
MAYBE  
ÔTANI...

...IS STILL  
IN LOVE  
WITH HIS  
OLD GIRL-  
FRIEND?





HE EVEN  
FORGOT TO  
REACT TO  
"MIDGET"...

usually

Whadia  
call me!

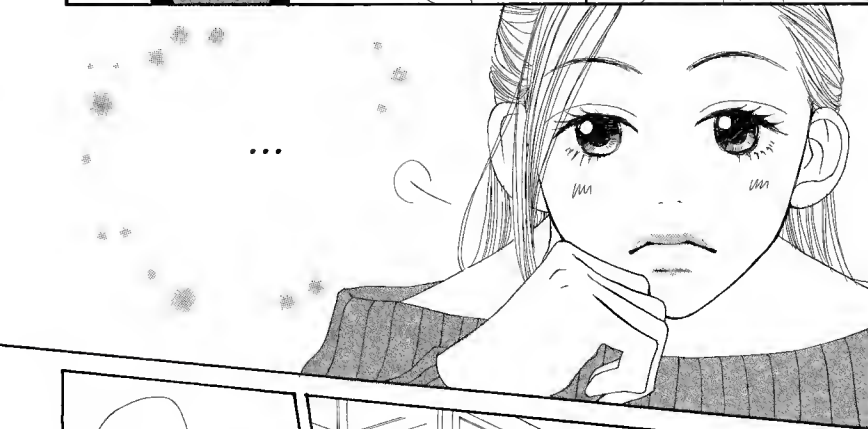


...OUCH.  
JEEZ,  
MAN.

WHATCHA  
WANT?



HEY,  
MIDGET!!  
I'M TALK-  
ING TO  
YOU!



...



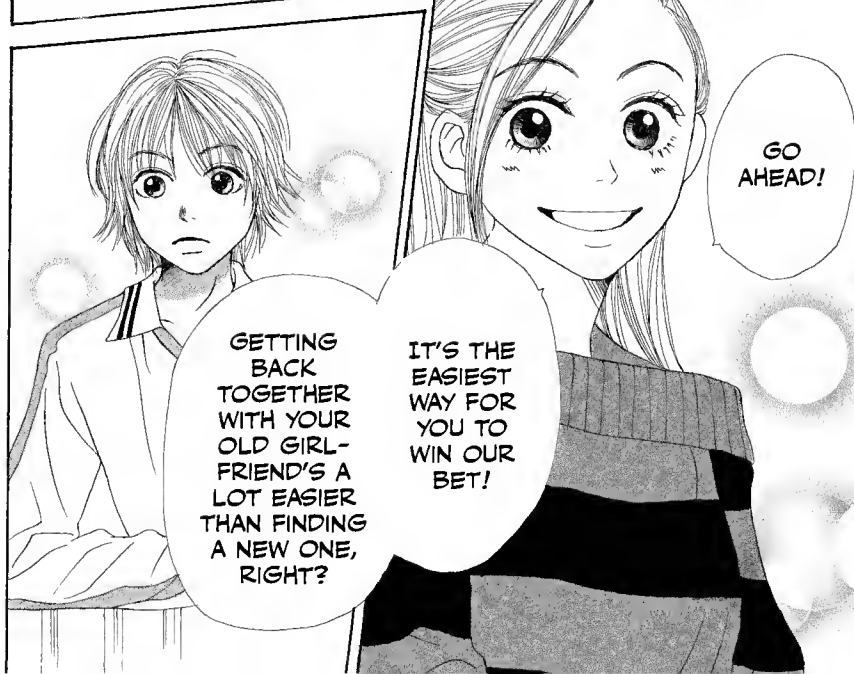
...UMM...

YEAH...

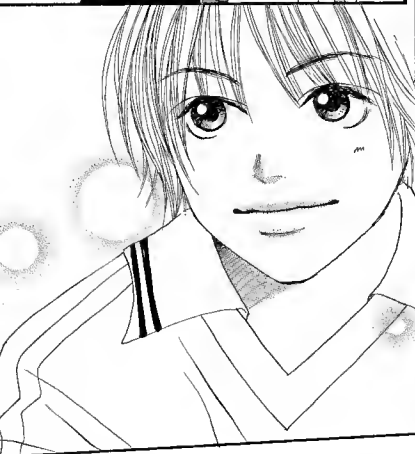


BEATS  
GUESSING,  
RIGHT?

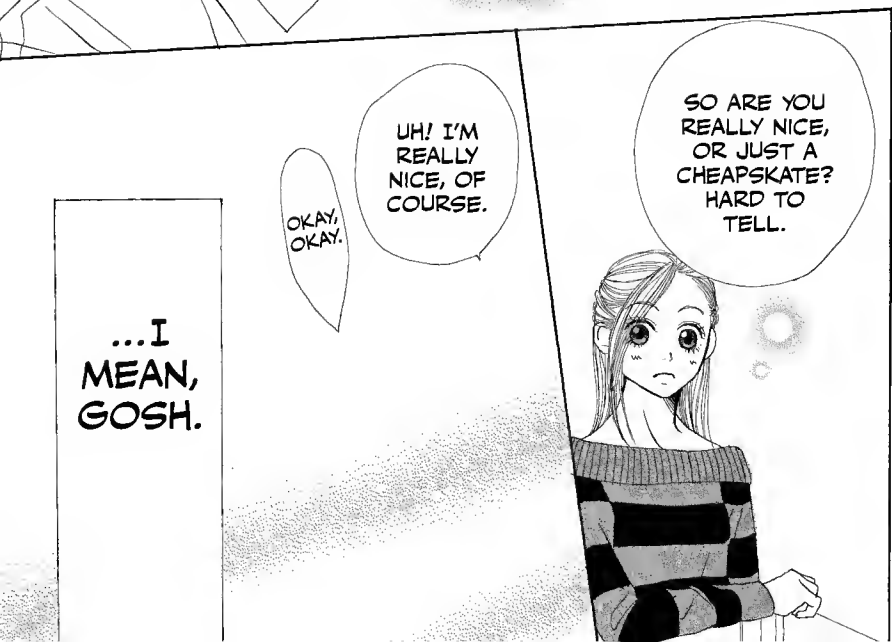
IF IT  
BOTHERS  
YOU SO  
MUCH, GO  
HEAR WHAT  
SHE HAS  
TO SAY.







MAYBE  
A CUP OF  
COFFEE  
OR SOME-  
THING,  
MAX.



...I  
MEAN,  
GOSH.



NOBU  
DEAR!  
CHIHARU  
DEAR!



SO MAYBE  
WE COULD  
ALL HANG  
OUT BEFORE  
THE SHOW?!

SO!  
THAT  
BEING  
THE  
CASE...

...I'M  
GOING  
TO BE ALL  
ALONE ON  
CHRISTMAS!

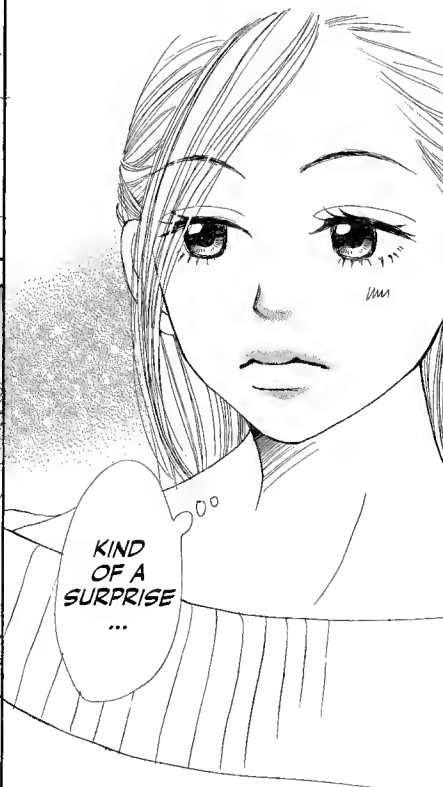


...URGH...  
IF YOU  
CAN'T, THAT'S  
TOTALLY  
OKAY...MAYBE  
CHRISTMAS EVE,  
INSTEAD...?

...



WHAT ELSE  
COULD I  
SAY, WHEN  
HE LOOKS  
LIKE THAT  
...?



KIND  
OF A  
SURPRISE  
...

IT'S  
NOTHING  
PERSONAL,  
OKAY?!

I'M  
REALLY  
SORRY,  
RISA!!

UMM! BUT  
MAYBE IF I  
WORK REAL  
HARD ON IT  
NOW I CAN  
MAKE THE  
TIME...

I'M KNITTING  
SUZUKI-KUN A  
MUFFLER FOR  
CHRISTMAS, AND  
IT'S NOT CLOSE  
TO DONE YET,  
SO I'M GONNA  
NEED THE  
24<sup>TH</sup> FOR...

...NO  
CAN  
DO.

I'M STAYING  
OVER AT MY  
DARLIN'S HOUSE  
CHRISTMAS EVE,  
AND SPENDING  
ALL OF  
CHRISTMAS  
THERE TOO.

IT'S  
FINE!!  
NOW I  
WANNA  
BE  
ALONE  
FOR A  
SEC!!

FINE!!  
OKAY!!

IT'S  
**FINE.**

I HAVE NO  
**PROBLEM**  
SPENDING  
IT ALONE.

CHRISTMAS  
IS JUST  
ANOTHER  
DAY OF  
THE WEEK,  
THAT'S  
ALL.

jingle

♪

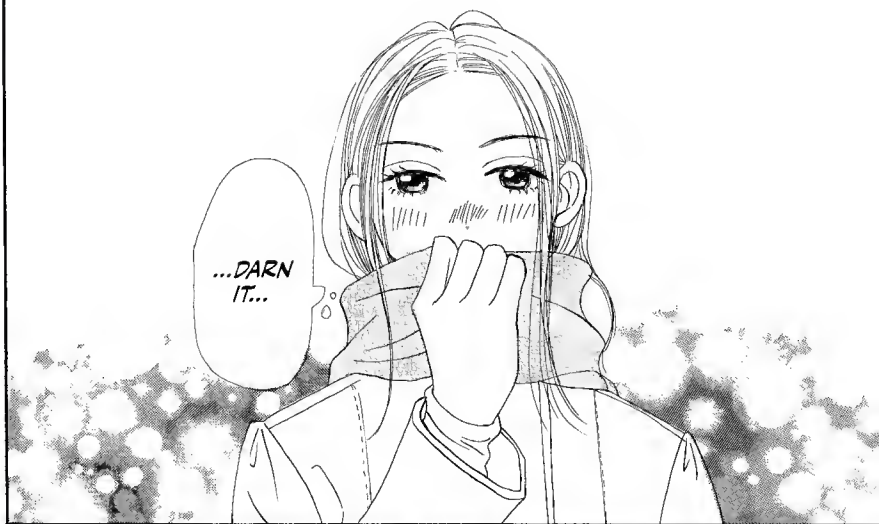
jingle

♪

jingle

♪

jingle



...DARN  
IT...



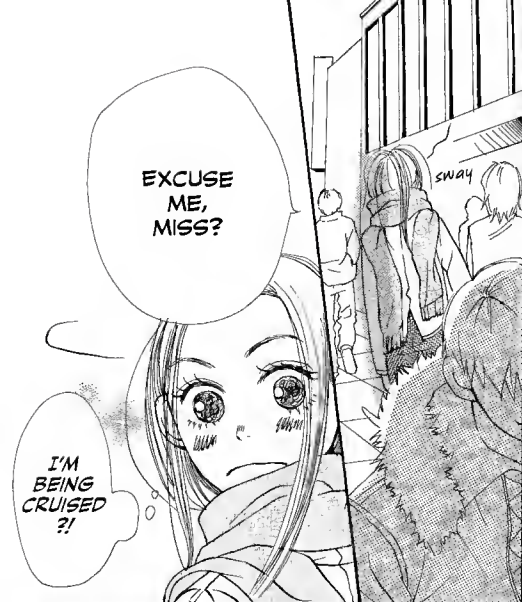
OWWWCH!

YAAA-  
ARGH!

MY  
TIGHTS'RE  
ALL  
AND MY KNEE'S TOO OORN!  
BLEEEED-  
ING!!

LEFT THE  
HOUSE  
WAY TOO  
EARLY CUZ  
I HAD  
NOTHING  
ELSE TO  
DO...







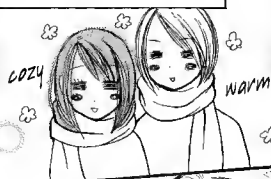
CHIHARU'S  
ALL WARM  
AND COZY,  
WRAPPED UP  
WITH SUZUKI  
IN THAT  
MUFFLER SHE  
KNITTED.



CONCEPTUAL IMAGE

NOBU'S  
TUCKING  
INTO A BIG  
ROASTED  
CHICKEN  
WITH  
NAKAO'S  
FAMILY.

GUESS  
EVERY-  
BODY'S  
HAVING  
A GREAT  
TIME  
RIGHT  
AROUND  
NOW.



AND  
ÔTANI'S  
BACK  
TOGETHER  
WITH HIS  
EX-GIRL-  
FRIEND...

...THIS IS JUST GREAT.

EVERYBODY'S  
COUPLED UP, AND  
I'M LEFT BEHIND  
ALL BY MYSELF.

ÔTANI'S GONNA  
BE SO BUSY  
THINKING ABOUT  
HIS GIRLFRIEND  
THAT HE WON'T  
PAY ATTENTION  
TO ME ANY-  
MORE.

I'LL  
CALL HIM  
"SHRIMP"  
AND HE'LL  
JUST  
IGNORE  
ME.

...WON'T  
I JUST  
BE IN  
THEIR  
WAY?

...IF I  
GO  
OUT  
WITH  
EVERY-  
BODY  
...

AND IT'S  
ALMOST  
WINTER  
VACATION,  
BUT...

IF ÔTANI  
HAS A  
GIRL-  
FRIEND,  
WHO DO  
I GO  
HOME  
WITH  
EVERY DAY  
AFTER  
SCHOOL?



WHAT  
IF IT'S A  
REALLY  
GREAT  
SHOW?

WHO  
AM I  
GOING  
TO  
SHARE  
THAT  
WITH?

I DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYBODY  
BESIDES  
ÔTANI WHO  
EVEN LIKES  
UMIBÔZU IN  
THE FIRST  
PLACE.

...OUCH,  
MY  
KNEE  
HURTS.

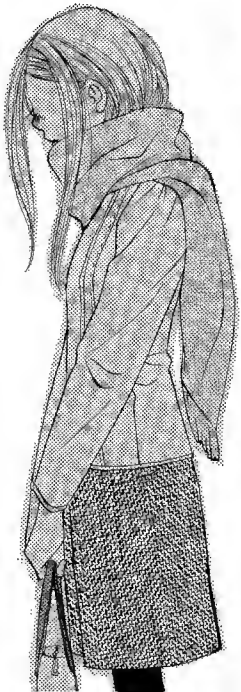
JUST  
WHAT I  
NEED  
WHEN THE  
SHOW'S  
ABOUT TO  
START.



A composite image at the top of the page. On the left, a boy's face is shown in profile, looking down with a serious expression. In the center, a smaller inset shows a boy and a girl sitting at a table, both smiling. On the right, a large, close-up image of a girl's face is shown, smiling broadly with her eyes closed.

**HARD  
TO  
BELIEVE**

...

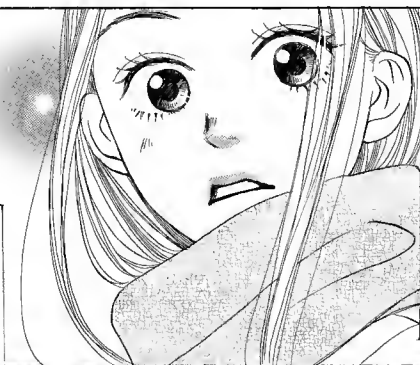
A black and white illustration of a girl standing and looking down. She has long hair and is wearing a light-colored jacket over a dark skirt. She is holding a bag in her right hand. The background is white with some faint, scattered dots.

**BUT I  
REALLY  
WISH  
HE WAS  
HERE.**





I  
THOUGHT  
...



...HUH  
...?



...I  
HEARD  
ÔTANI'S  
VOICE  
JUST  
NOW...





BUT...!

ANOTHER  
TIME.

BUT  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
EX-GIRL-  
FRIEND?!

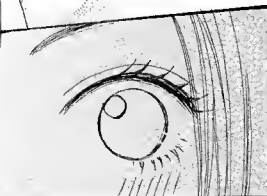
LOOK.

WE  
PLANNED  
TO DO THIS  
BEFORE  
SHE EVER  
SHOWED UP,  
RIGHT?

I'M  
HERE TO  
SEE THE  
UMIBÔZU  
SHOW,  
WHAT  
ELSE?

WHAT  
AM I  
DOING  
...?

HUH?

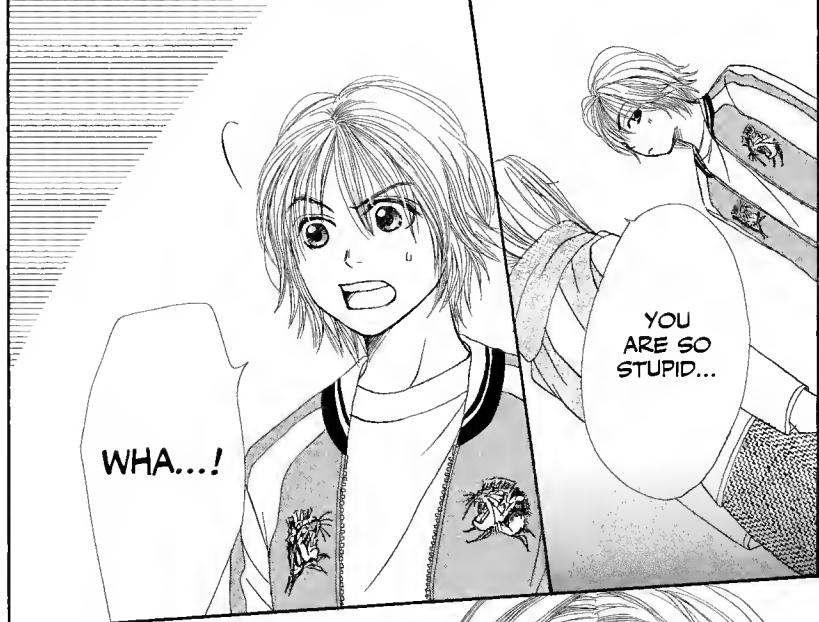


...

PLUS,  
I DON'T  
WANNA  
OWE  
YOU ANY-  
THING.

...BUT A  
PROMISE IS  
A PROMISE,  
AND I HATE  
BREAKING  
PROMISES.

SO  
SURE,  
I HAD  
TO  
THINK  
ABOUT  
IT...







N-NO...

I FELL  
DOWN,  
AND MY  
KNEE...

YOUR  
KNEE?

I...!  
I...!

I F-FELL...  
I F-FELL  
...!

WHAT,  
THAT  
TOWER?!  
IN PARIS?!



...

...I...



LET'S  
GO FIND  
A DRUG-  
STORE,  
COME ON.

YOU  
OKAY?  
CAN YOU  
WALK?

YEAH.

OKAY.

ÔTANI'S  
BEING  
SO NICE  
TO ME...

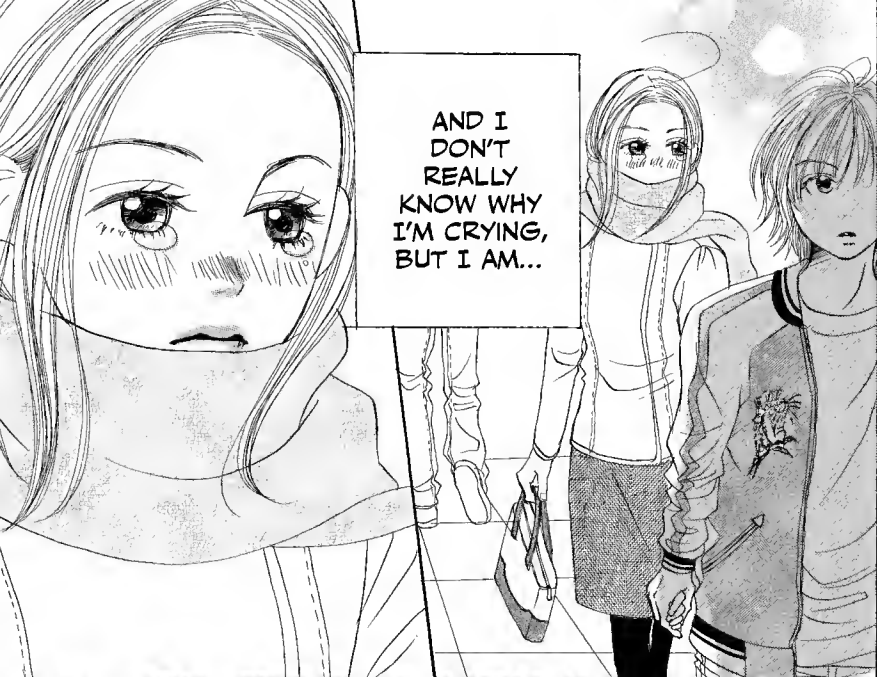


WHOA!

THERE'S  
BLOOD  
ALL OVER  
THE  
PLACE!

What're  
you  
doing?!





AND I  
DON'T  
REALLY  
KNOW WHY  
I'M CRYING,  
BUT I AM...

...MAYBE  
SOMETHING  
MIGHT  
ACTUALLY  
HAPPEN  
BETWEEN US  
TONIGHT.

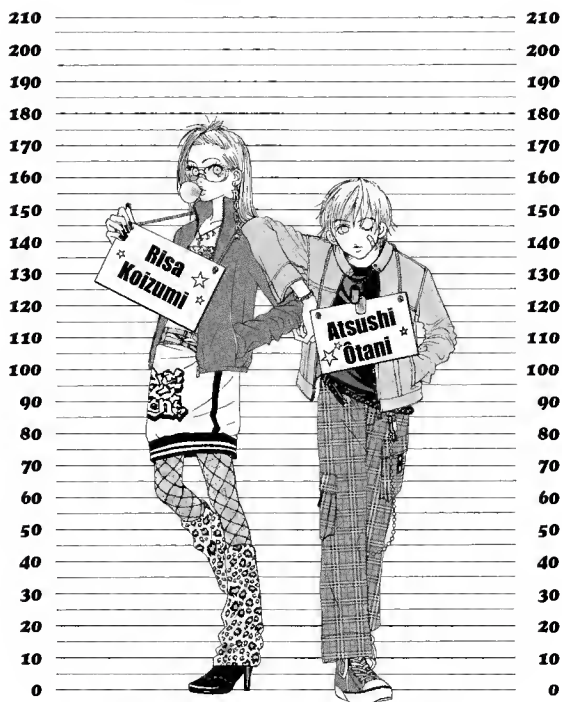
...EVEN  
IF WE  
**ARE** ALL  
HANSHIN-  
KYOJIN...

AND  
WITH ALL  
THESE  
CHRISTMAS  
LIGHTS  
EVERY-  
WHERE...

LEAVE  
ME  
ALONE.

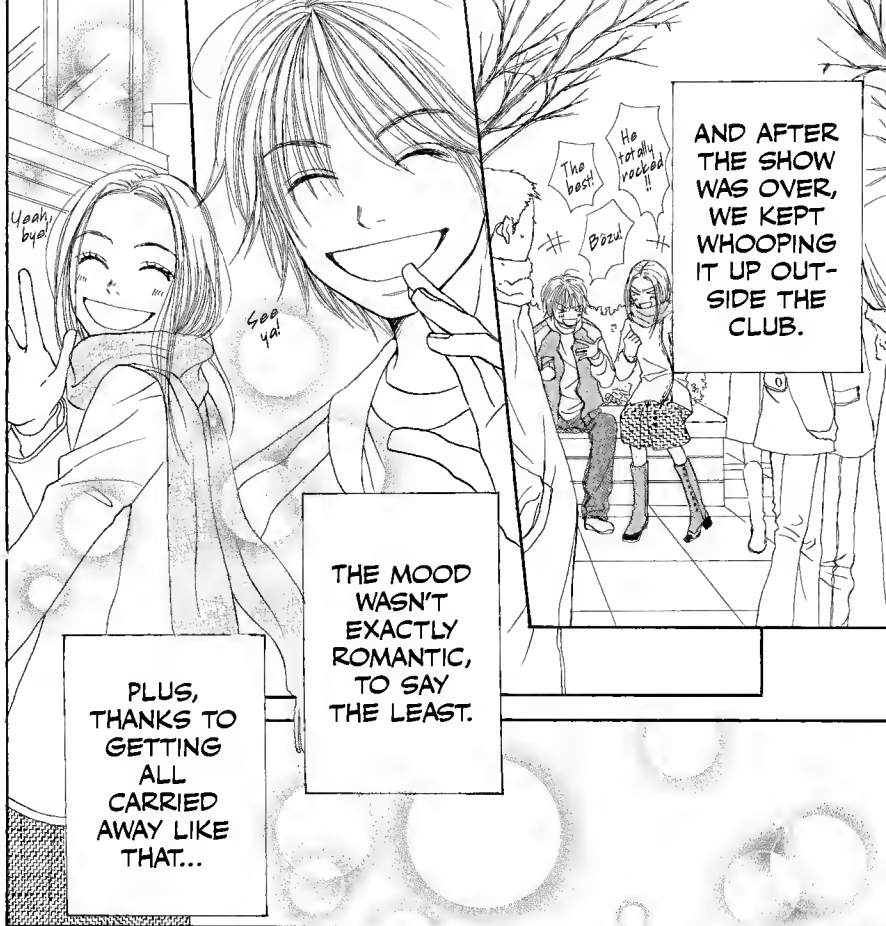
WAIT  
A MINUTE!  
AREN'T YOU  
KIND OF A  
**BIG GIRL**  
TO FALL  
DOWN AND  
CRY?!







## CHAPTER 6



AND AFTER  
THE SHOW  
WAS OVER,  
WE KEPT  
WHOOPIING  
IT UP OUT-  
SIDE THE  
CLUB.

THE MOOD  
WASN'T  
EXACTLY  
ROMANTIC,  
TO SAY  
THE LEAST.

PLUS,  
THANKS TO  
GETTING  
ALL  
CARRIED  
AWAY LIKE  
THAT...



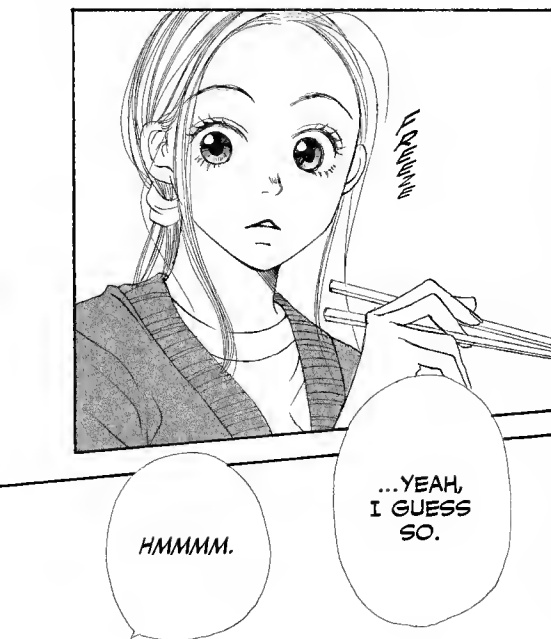
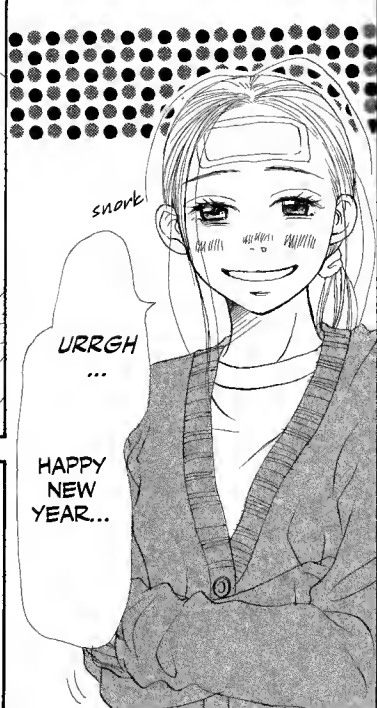
ARE YOU  
OKAY,  
RISA...?

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR,  
RISA! YOU  
FEELING  
BETTER?

KA-  
CHAK

HYAAGH-  
CHOOMPH!!

...I  
ENDED  
UP SICK  
IN BED  
UNTIL  
THE NEW  
YEAR.



MAYBE  
THEY'RE  
BACK  
TOGETHER  
BY NOW...

HEY RISA,  
CAN YOU  
GO OUT  
TOMORROW?

HUH?



WONDER  
IF HE MET  
UP WITH  
HER AFTER  
THAT...

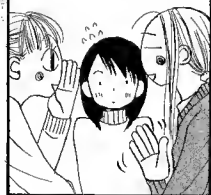
WHAAAT?

Boring.

...

COME  
ON.  
AS IF.

SO,  
DID YOU  
FALL IN  
LOVE?



YEAH,  
SURE.

Uh-huh.  
...  
...

SO  
OKAY  
...

SO I  
DON'T  
WANNA  
BE THERE  
ALONE  
LIKE SOME  
PATHETIC  
FIFTH  
WHEEL,  
OKAY?!

NO!  
I AM  
NOT!

BUT  
YOU  
GUYS  
ARE!

OF  
COURSE  
WE'LL ASK  
OTANI TO  
COME,  
TOO.

WE'RE ALL  
GOING TO  
THE SHRINE  
TOGETHER.  
WANNA  
COME?

OH?!

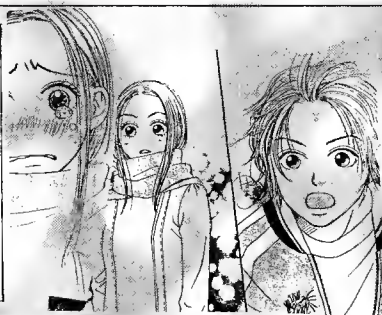
SO YOU  
ARE IN  
LOVE?!

IF  
OTANI'S  
GOING,  
THEN  
MAYBE  
I'LL GO.

HMM...



BUT THAT  
WAS ONLY  
BECAUSE I  
WAS FEELING  
SO LONELY  
AND LEFT  
OUT THAT  
NIGHT.



...IT'S TRUE  
I WAS  
STOKED  
WHEN ÔTANI  
SHOWED  
UP AT THE  
SHOW ON  
CHRISTMAS.



Risa's room  
sure has a lot  
of strange  
things in it.

Isn't  
that a  
game  
control  
thing?

Oh, so  
that's  
what  
it is.

I AM  
NOT IN  
LOVE  
WITH  
HIM!!



IT  
DEFINITELY  
DOES NOT  
MEAN I'M  
IN LOVE  
WITH HIM.



I AM  
NOT.

OH  
GOSH.  
I FEEL  
KINDA  
SELF-  
CON-  
SCIOUS.

UH...  
YEAH.

WELL, I  
TOTALLY  
CRIED IN  
FRONT OF  
HIM AND  
EVERY-  
THING.

THX

I JUST  
HEARD, YOU  
WERE SICK  
IN BED 'TIL  
YESTERDAY?

WHAT  
HAPPENED  
WITH YOUR  
EX-GIRL-  
FRIEND?

...UH...  
SO  
ANYWAY.

BUT I  
DID MAKE  
PLANS  
TO MEET  
HER NEXT  
WEEK.

OH...

NOTHING.

2.

Although this has nothing to do with anything...

My name for this screen tone here, which I occasionally use, is "nipple tone." If you paste it onto nipples, they get very nipple-like. Very realistic, no?

What am I writing...? If I have nothing to write about, I ought to think a little harder to come up with something better than this.

But anyway, "nipple tone" it is.

Aya at work



YOU KNOW, EVER SINCE YOU HEARD ABOUT HER, YOU'VE BEEN GOING ON AND ON ABOUT MY EX-GIRL-FRIEND.

HUH?

SO I GUESS THEY HAVEN'T GOTTEN BACK TOGETHER YET.

WELL... YEAH, CUZ I DON'T WANT IT TO BE MY FAULT IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT FOR YOU GUYS.

JUST FOR YOUR INFO!

IT'S NOT ABOUT GETTING BACK TOGETHER OR ANYTHING...

YEAH, BUT IF THAT'S WHAT SHE WANTS, YOU'LL SAY YES, RIGHT?

I'M ONLY SEEING HER TO HEAR WHAT SHE WANTS TO SAY, OKAY?







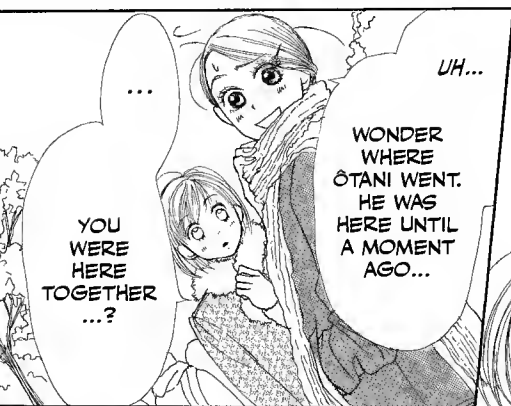


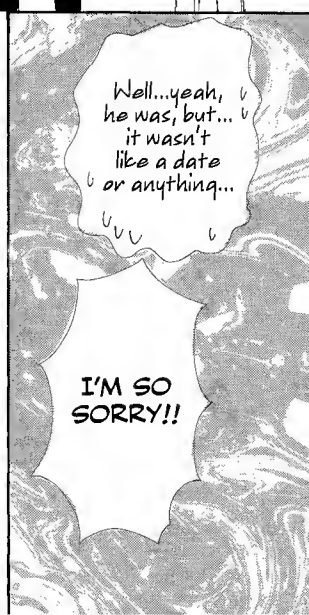
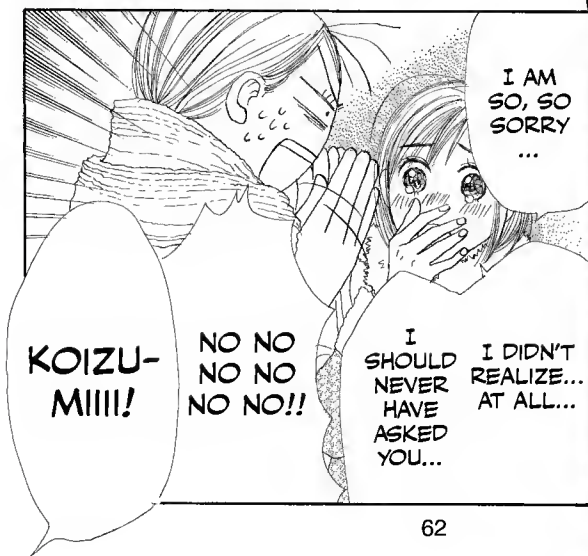
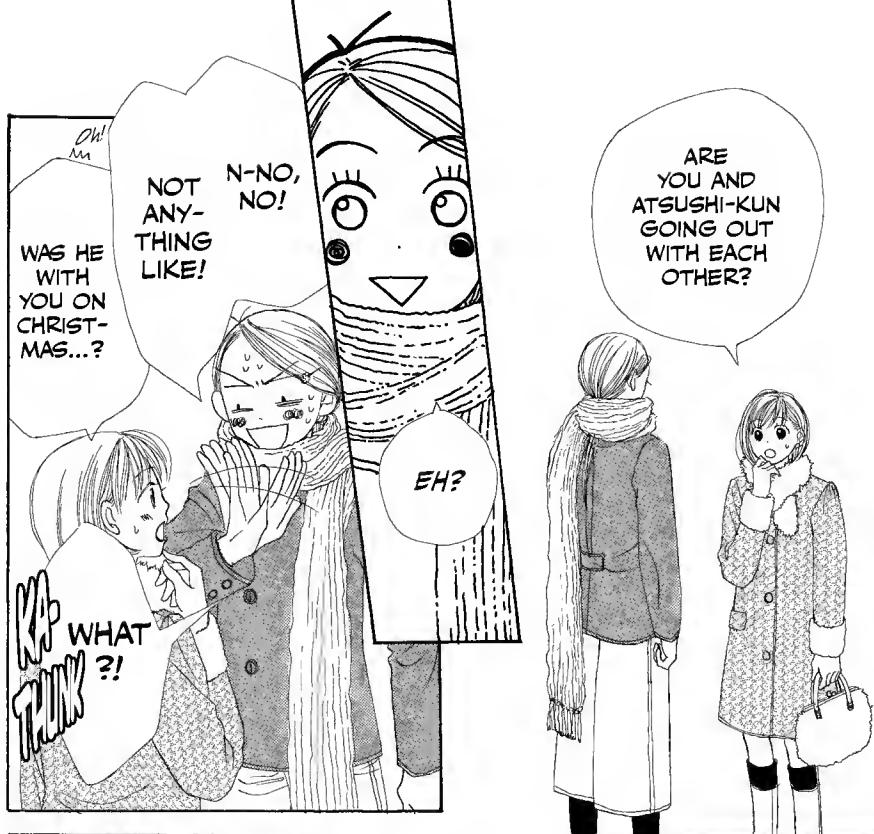
HEY.



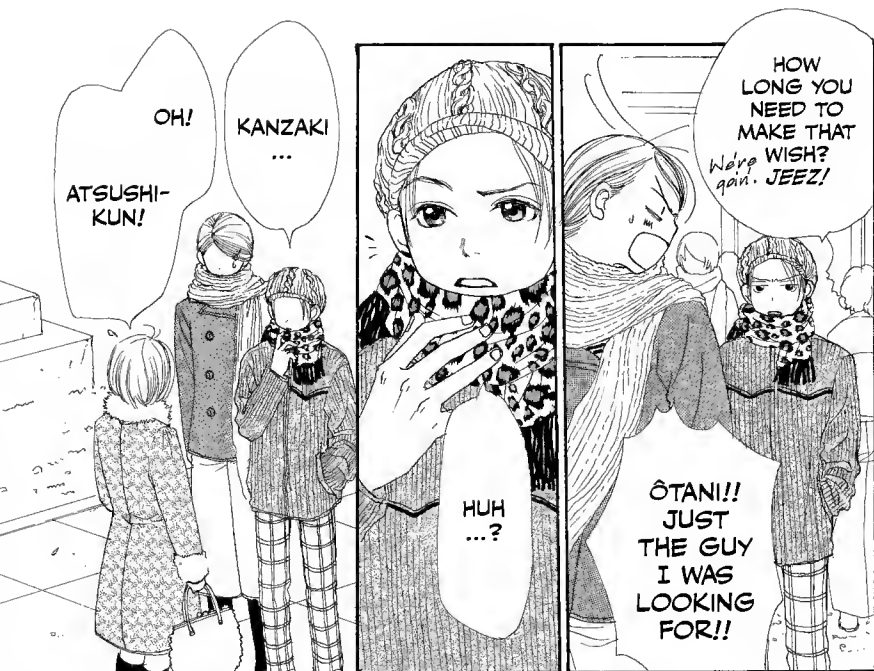
HIS EX-  
GIRL-  
FRIEND!











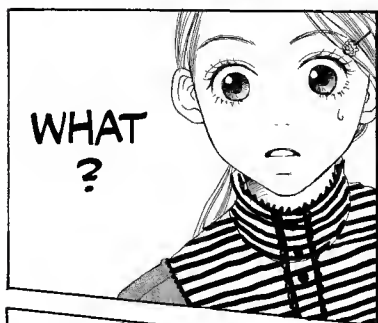
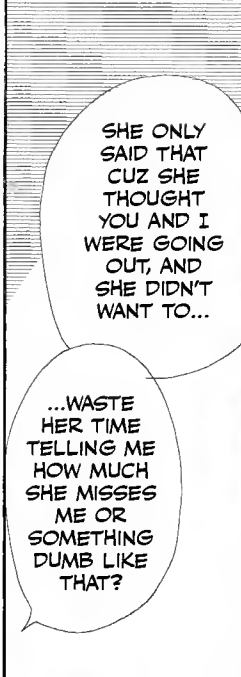


...AAARGH...



...HEH?









SEE?!

AND  
THAT'S  
WHY SHE  
WANTED  
...



SO HE  
STARTED  
DATING  
SOMEBODY  
ELSE, AND  
ÔTANI'S EX  
JUST HAD  
HER HEART  
BROKEN.

OHHHH.



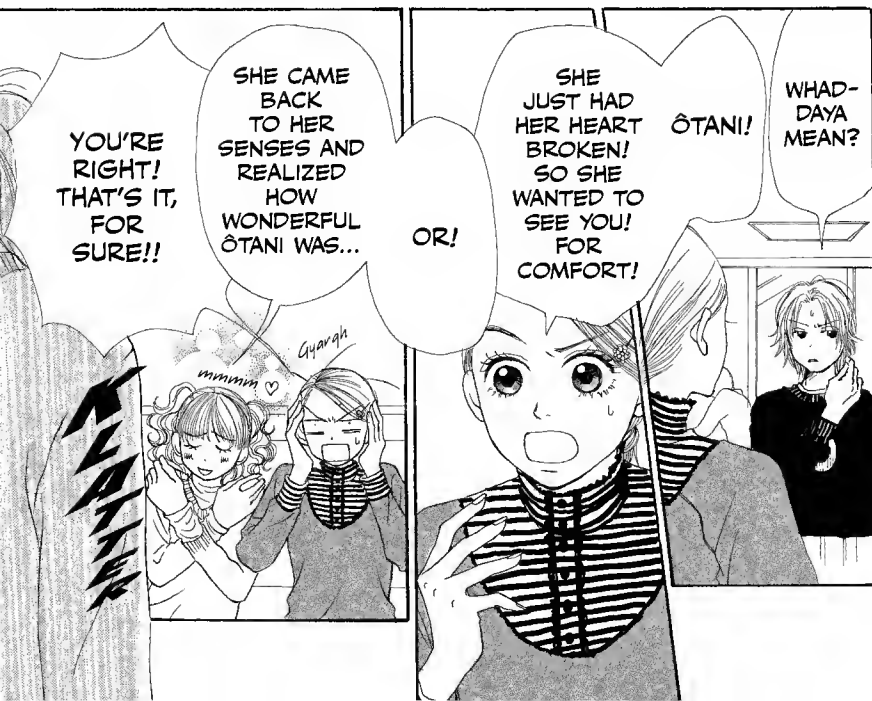
SO  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
HAPPENED.



IT'S  
PRETTY  
OBVIOUS  
THAT'S  
WHY SHE  
WANTED  
TO SEE  
YOU!

NOW  
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
GONNA  
DO?!

DO?  
ABOUT  
WHAT...



YOU'RE  
RIGHT!  
THAT'S IT,  
FOR  
SURE!!

SHE CAME  
BACK  
TO HER  
SENSES AND  
REALIZED  
HOW  
WONDERFUL  
ÔTANI WAS...

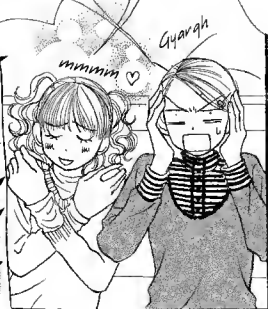
OR!

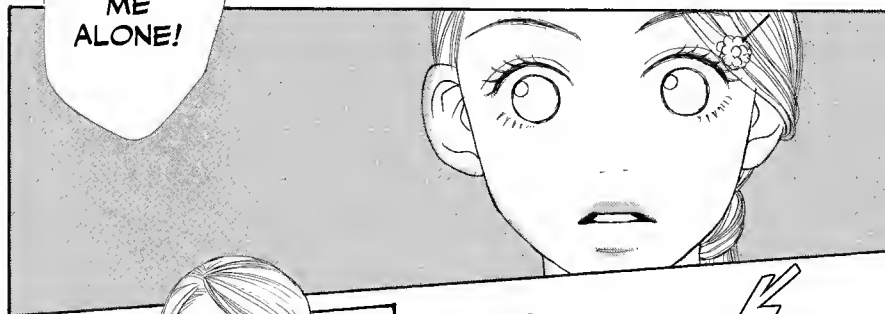
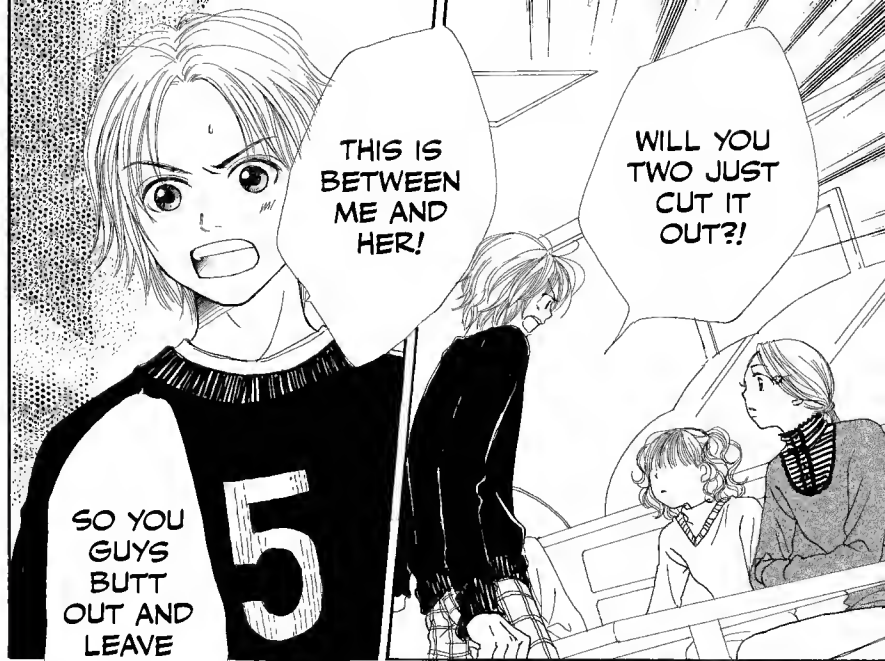
SHE  
JUST HAD  
HER HEART  
BROKEN!  
SO SHE  
WANTED TO  
SEE YOU!  
FOR  
COMFORT!

ÔTANI!

WHAD-  
DAYA  
MEAN?

KLATZKE





ZWOOOH

Oooooh, you were  
so cccccc just now!

YOU GUYS  
WANT ME TO  
SEW YOUR  
MOUTHS  
SHUT?!

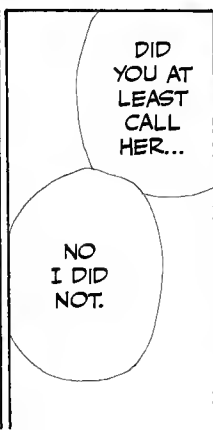
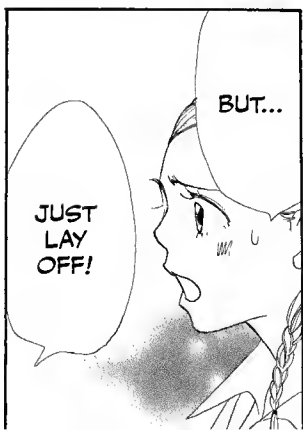
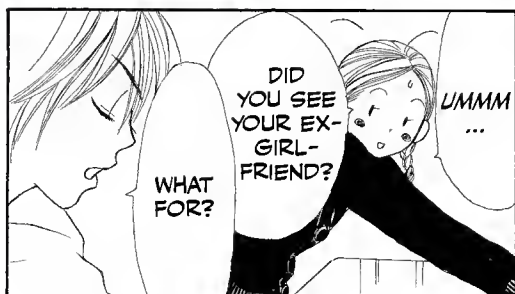
*Making fun  
of me all  
the time!!*

...WHY'D  
HE HAVE  
TO GET  
SO MAD  
ABOUT IT?

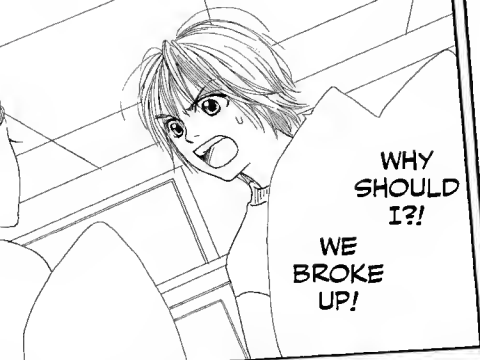
I  
MEAN,  
GOSH.

THIS  
WHOLE  
THING  
IS MY  
FAULT.

NOW  
WHAT  
DO I  
DO?







WHY  
SHOULD  
I?!

WE  
BROKE  
UP!



IT'S NONE  
OF YOUR  
BUSINESS,  
OKAY?!



YOU  
BIG  
DOPE!

YOU  
STILL  
LOVE  
HER!!

BUT SHE  
THINKS  
WE'RE  
GOING  
OUT! YOU  
DON'T  
CARE?!



BUT IT  
DOES HAVE  
SOME-  
THING TO  
DO WITH  
ME!

STOP  
STICKING  
YOUR NOSE  
INTO STUFF  
THAT'S GOT  
NOTHING  
TO DO WITH  
YOU!!

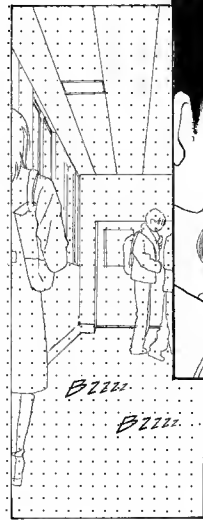
K  
R  
E

GREAT,  
OUR FIRST  
LOVERS'  
QUARREL  
OF THE  
NEW YEAR-





WHAT IS  
WRONG  
WITH THAT  
GUY...



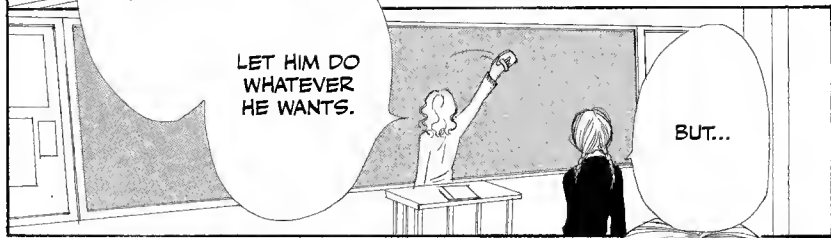
THAT'S  
NOT  
WHAT  
THIS  
IS!!



OH, WHO  
CARES?

LET HIM DO  
WHATEVER  
HE WANTS.

BUT...

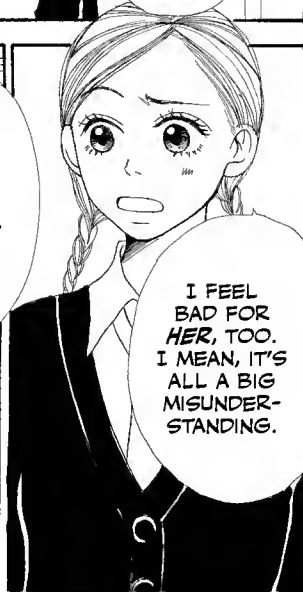


clap

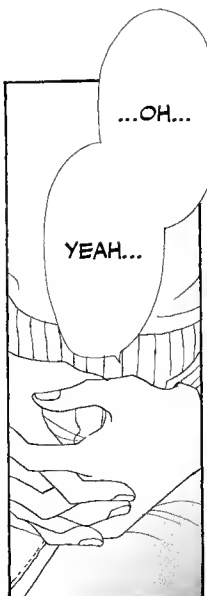
YEAH, BUT  
ACTUALLY,  
YOU'D BE A  
LOT HAPPIER  
IF THOSE  
TWO...

...DON'T  
GET BACK  
TOGETHER,  
RIGHT?

WHERE  
DO YOU  
GET  
THAT?

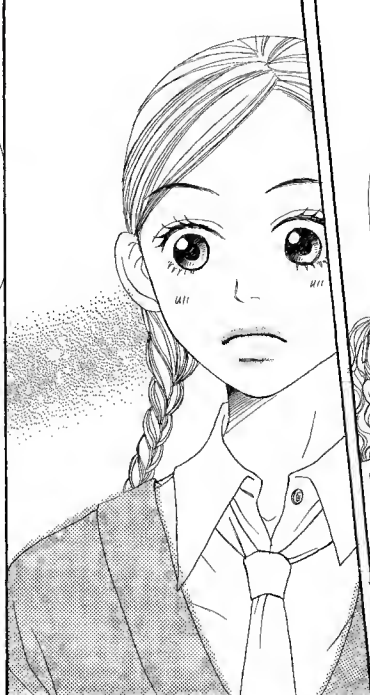


I FEEL  
BAD FOR  
HER, TOO.  
I MEAN, IT'S  
ALL A BIG  
MISUNDER-  
STANDING.

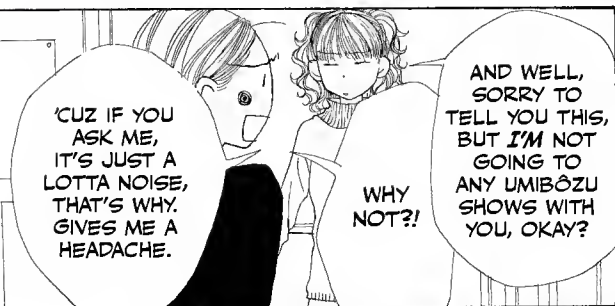


...OH...

YEAH...



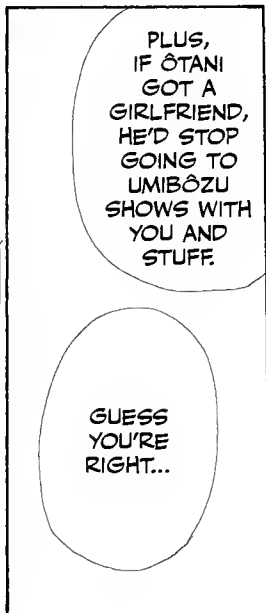
YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO SAID  
YOU DIDN'T  
WANT TO BE  
A "PATHETIC  
FIFTH WHEEL"  
WHEN YOU GO  
OUT WITH US,  
RIGHT?



'CUZ IF YOU  
ASK ME,  
IT'S JUST A  
LOTTA NOISE,  
THAT'S WHY.  
GIVES ME A  
HEADACHE.

WHY  
NOT?!

AND WELL,  
SORRY TO  
TELL YOU THIS,  
BUT I'M NOT  
GOING TO  
ANY UMIBÔZU  
SHOWS WITH  
YOU, OKAY?



PLUS,  
IF ÔTANI  
GOT A  
GIRLFRIEND,  
HE'D STOP  
GOING TO  
UMIBÔZU  
SHOWS WITH  
YOU AND  
STUFF.



BASICALLY,  
THE ONLY  
PERSON  
WHO'S RIGHT  
ON YOUR  
WAVELENGTH  
IS ÔTANI,  
RISA.

WHAT  
CAN  
I SAY,  
I DON'T.  
OKAY?

HOW CAN YOU  
SAY THAT?!  
HIS RHYMES  
AND RHYTHMS  
ARE SO  
GREAT. WHY  
DON'T PEOPLE  
GET IT?!

GUESS  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT...



RIGHT?

BUT  
STILL...

...

I KNOW.  
PLUS  
I DON'T  
THINK I'LL  
EVER MEET  
ANYBODY  
ELSE I  
GET ALONG  
WITH SO  
WELL.



YUP.

...YOU  
THINK?



BUT...

HE IS  
A TOTAL  
SHRIMP.

WELL  
...

STILL  
...

I  
DON'T  
KNOW...



...

IF HE GETS  
A GIRLFRIEND,  
HE WON'T  
COME RUN-  
NING TO FIND  
ME LIKE THAT  
ANYMORE.

ONE  
THING'S  
FOR  
SURE.

HMM.





AARGH...  
WHAT  
DO I  
DO...?

HEY,  
CAN WE  
STOP BY  
THE GYM  
FIRST?

NWAAAAGH!!  
I JUST  
DON'T KNOW!!  
MY HEART  
ITCHES!!

What're  
you  
talking  
about?

OKAY,  
SO  
WE'LL  
WAIT  
FOR  
YOU!

YEAH.

YOU  
GUYS  
ALMOST  
DONE?

THAT  
LAID-BACK  
ATTITUDE IS  
ONE OF THE  
THINGS I  
LOVE SO  
MUCH ABOUT  
YOU, BABY!!

WHAT THE  
HECK'RE  
YOU  
DOING,  
ÔTANI?!

HEY!!

YOU  
NEVER  
SEEM TO  
DO MUCH  
DURING  
PRACTICE,  
NAKAO...

It's  
been  
bother-  
ing me  
since  
way  
back.

I  
know.

I ONLY  
JOINED  
THE TEAM  
CUZ ÔTANI  
WANTED  
TO.

IT'S  
CUZ I'M  
A TOTAL  
SLACKER.



HERE!

OKAY,  
WHO'S  
NEXT?

SNAP  
OUT OF  
IT OR  
GET OFF  
THE  
COURT!

VACATION'S  
OVER,  
KIDDO!

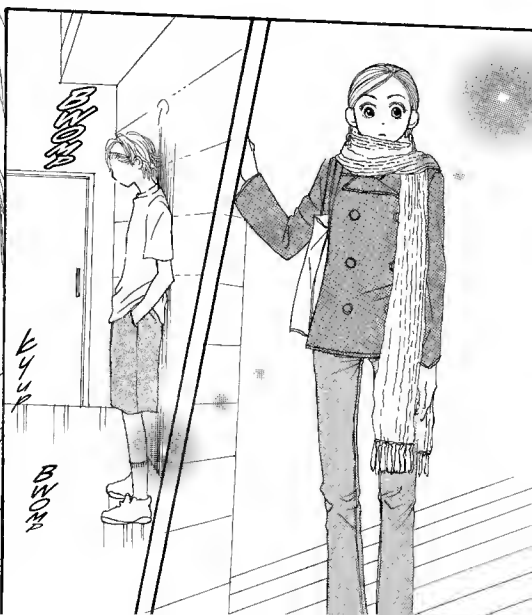
NOW  
YANK THAT  
HEAD  
OUTTA THE  
CLOUDS!

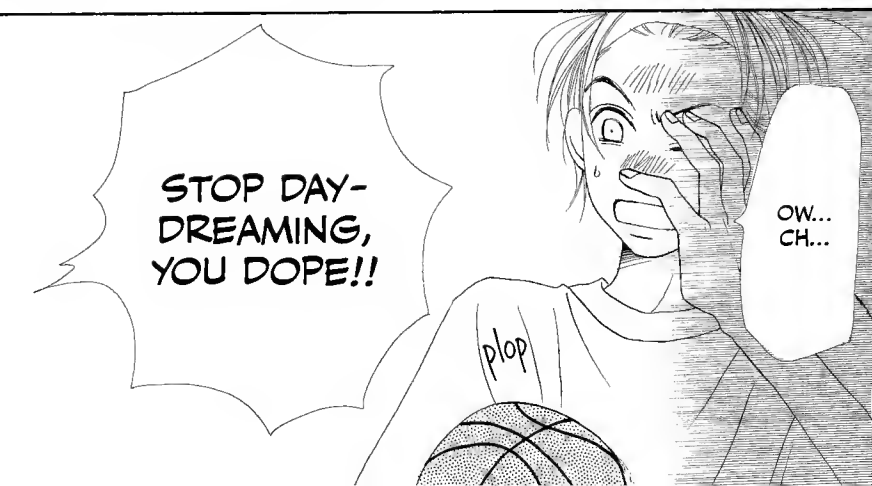
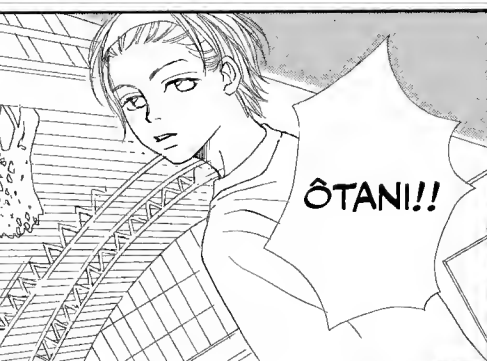
BOOM

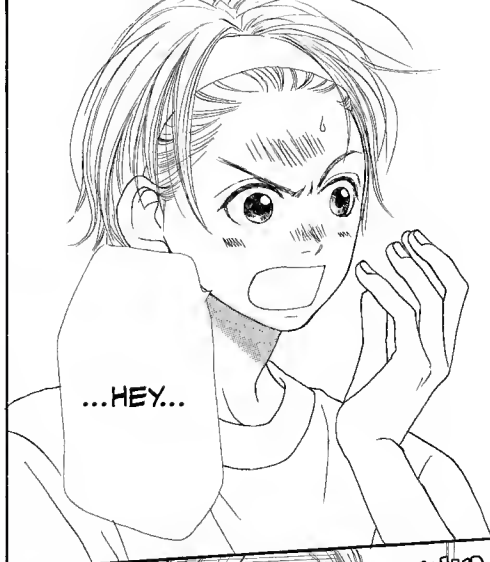
KYUP

KYUP

BOOM



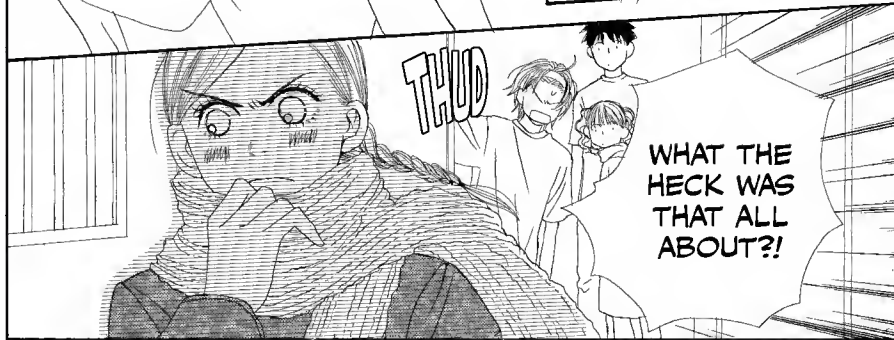




...HEY...



KOIZUMI  
...?



THUD

WHAT THE  
HECK WAS  
THAT ALL  
ABOUT?!

THAT  
STUBBORN  
IDIOT.

FINE,  
IT'S HIS  
BUSINESS!

HE'S  
DYING  
TO KNOW  
WHY SHE  
WANTS  
TO SEE  
HIM.

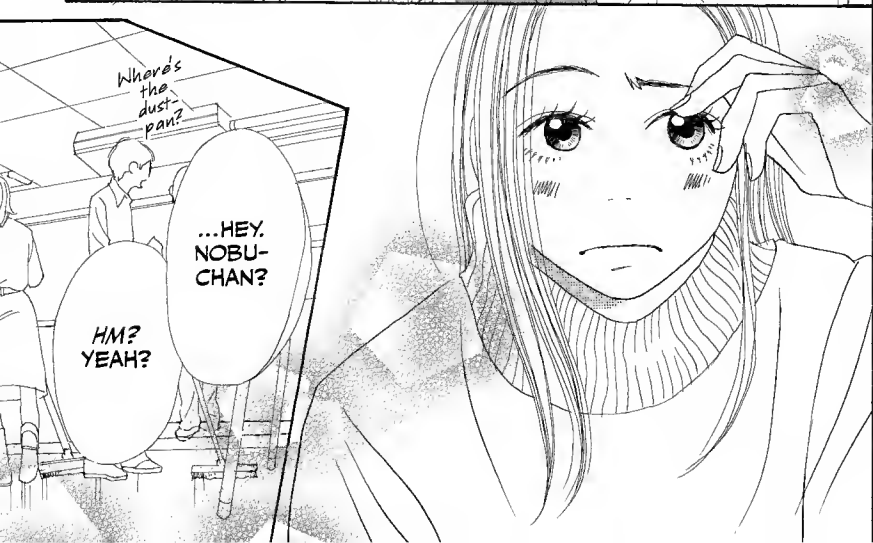
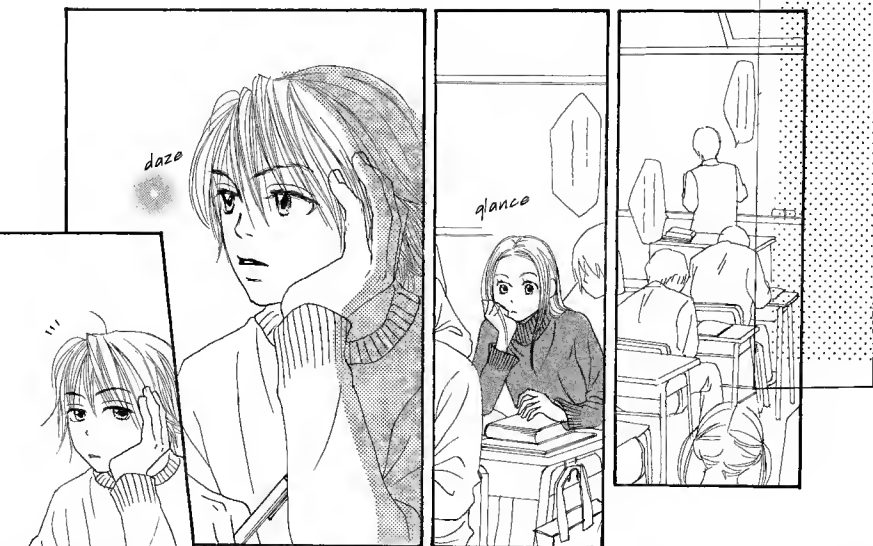
THAT  
BIG  
LIAR.



"LEAVE  
ME  
ALONE!"

"WHY  
SHOULD  
I? WE  
BROKE  
UP!"







SORRY!  
BUT CAN  
YOU COVER  
FOR ME  
HERE?!

SLAM



YOU KNOW  
ÔTANI'S  
EX-GIRL-  
FRIEND?  
THAT WAS  
A SAKURA  
GIRLS'  
SCHOOL  
UNIFORM,  
RIGHT...?

YEAH,  
I THINK  
SO.

*She must  
be smart.*



HUNH...?!  
RISA...?!

WHAM



HUH?

...OHHH.

WONDER  
WHERE  
SHE'S  
OFF  
TO...?

WHO SAID  
SHE GETS  
TO BAIL ON  
CLEANING  
THE CLASS-  
ROOM?!





WELL...




GUESS  
IT'S ONLY  
BEEN  
A FEW  
DAYS.

UM...  
IS  
SOME-  
THING  
THE  
MATTER?



HI.  
HOW'VE  
YOU  
BEEN  
...?

OH...



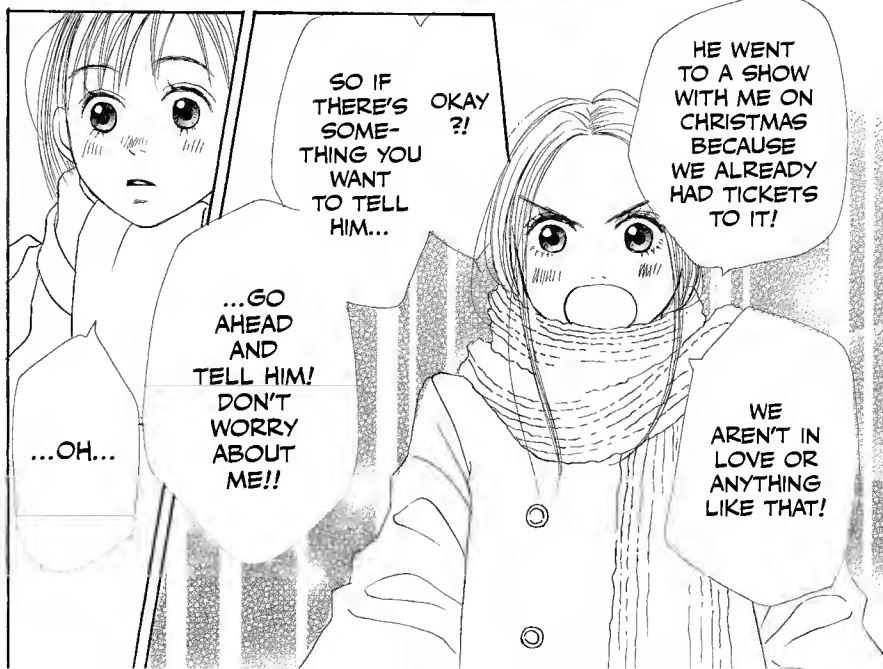
...GUESS  
I'M KIND  
OF A  
STUBBORN  
IDIOT, TOO.



THERE IS  
**NOTHING!!!**  
GOING ON  
BETWEEN ME  
AND ÔTANI,  
OKAY?!

G/W/P

KANZAKI-  
SAN!



SO IF  
THERE'S  
SOME-  
THING YOU  
WANT  
TO TELL  
HIM...  
OKAY  
?!

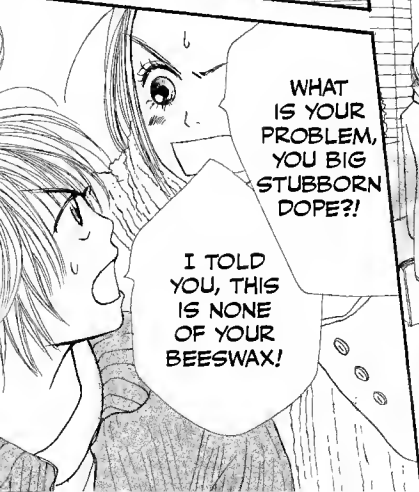
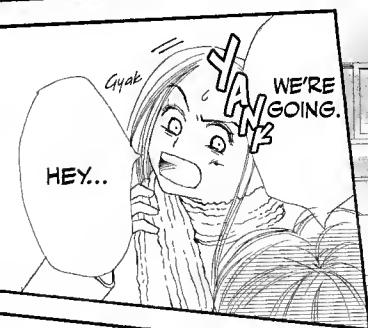
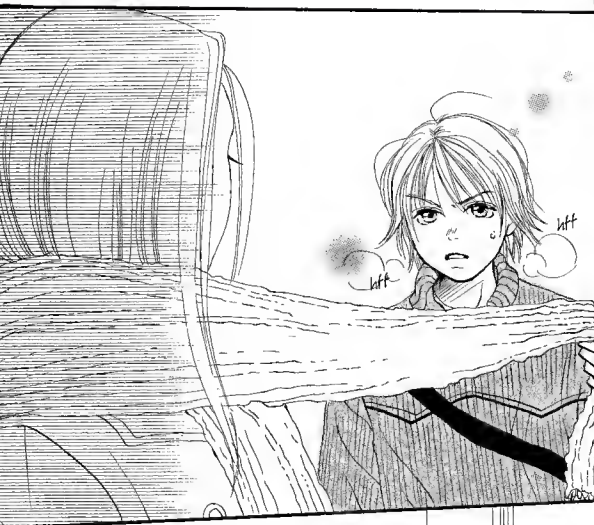
...GO  
AHEAD  
AND  
TELL HIM!  
DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
ME!!

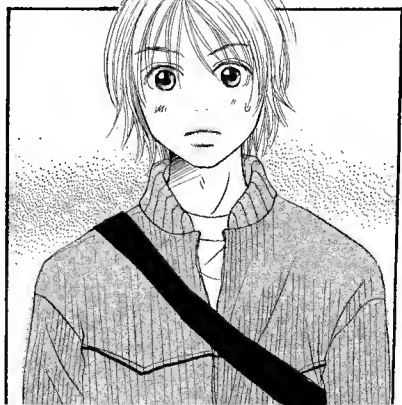
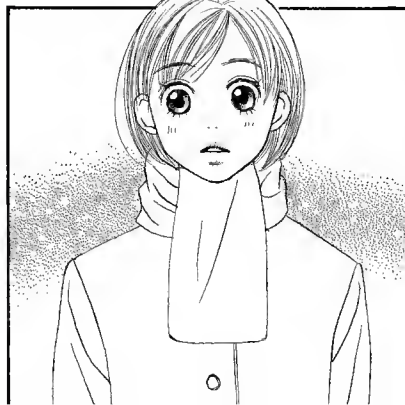
...OH...

HE WENT  
TO A SHOW  
WITH ME ON  
CHRISTMAS  
BECAUSE  
WE ALREADY  
HAD TICKETS  
TO IT!

WE  
AREN'T IN  
LOVE OR  
ANYTHING  
LIKE THAT!







...

...ATSUSHI-KUN.

...UH-HUH?

HOPE  
THEY'RE  
HAPPY  
TOGETHER

...

I'LL JUST  
STAY ON  
THE SIDE-  
LINES AND  
CHEER  
THEM ON.

...BUT IF  
THEY'RE  
BOTH  
STILL IN  
LOVE  
WITH  
EACH  
OTHER

...

I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENED  
BETWEEN  
THEM  
BEFORE...

...THAT'S  
GREAT,  
RIGHT?

...YEAH...  
GIANT  
BABA,  
RIGHT...?

REMEMBER  
THE GUY  
I TOLD  
YOU I  
HAD A BIG  
CRUSH  
ON...?



...HEH ?

...HUH?

I DIDN'T  
BREAK UP  
WITH YOU  
BECAUSE  
YOU WERE  
SHORT OR  
ANYTHING!



AND  
I DIDN'T  
START  
LIKING HIM  
BECAUSE HE  
WAS TALL!  
HE JUST  
HAPPENED  
TO BE,  
THAT'S ALL!

IT  
WASN'T  
BECAUSE  
OF HIS  
HEIGHT,  
OKAY?!

UM...



...HMM?

BUT I FELT  
LIKE CALLING  
YOU UP JUST  
TO EXPLAIN  
WOULD BE  
MAKING AN  
EVEN BIGGER  
ISSUE OUT  
OF IT, SO...

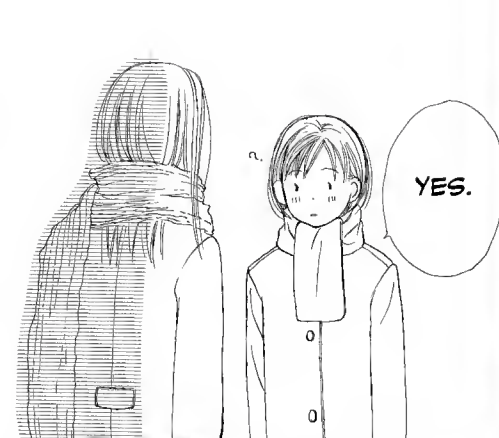
IT'S  
BEEN  
REALLY,  
REALLY  
BOTHERING  
ME EVER  
SINCE...

CUZ I  
KNEW  
YOU WERE  
REALLY  
SELF-  
CONSCIOUS  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
HEIGHT.

BUT WHEN  
I THOUGHT  
ABOUT  
IT LATER,  
I REALIZED  
MAYBE YOU  
MIGHT'VE  
TAKEN IT THE  
WRONG WAY  
OR SOME-  
THING.







YES.



EXCUSE  
ME, BUT...

...ERR...

THAT'S  
WHAT YOU  
WANTED  
TO TELL  
HIM?

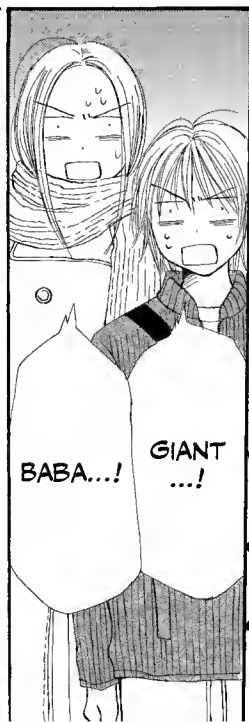


HEY!  
OVER  
HERE!



OH.

WE  
STARTED  
GOING OUT  
A LITTLE  
WHILE AGO...



BABA...!

GIANT  
...!



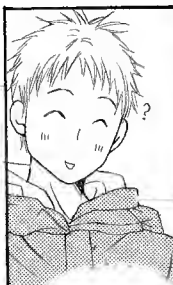
SCHOOL  
ENDED  
EARLY SO  
I CAME  
TO PICK  
YOU UP.

HUH?  
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
DOING  
HERE?

TOWER

Huhh  
??  
NAKAO,  
YOU BIG  
DOO-  
FUS!!

SO. YOU  
READY  
TO GO?



MUST'VE  
BEEN MY  
SISTER. WE  
DO STUFF  
TOGETHER  
ALL THE  
TIME.



...EH?

...WEREN'T  
YOU  
WALKING  
AROUND  
DOWN-  
TOWN WITH  
ANOTHER  
GIRL THE  
OTHER  
DAY?

...I  
KNOW  
THIS IS  
NONE  
OF MY  
BUSINESS,  
BUT...

BYE,  
YOU GUYS.  
SORRY  
ABOUT THAT.  
JUST WANTED  
YOU TO KNOW,  
OKAY?



heh  
heh  
tee  
hee

...I'M...



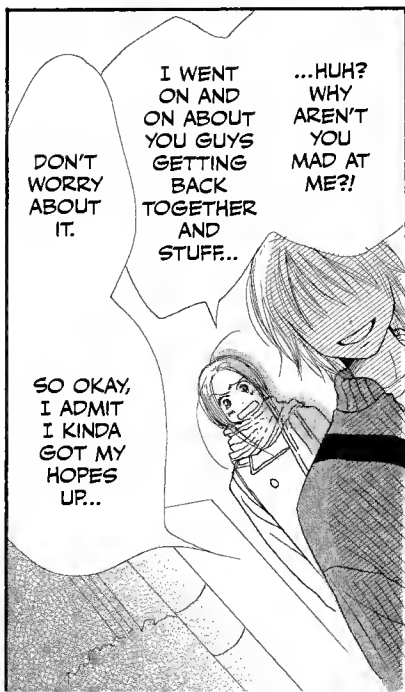


...HEY,  
THANKS.

IF YOU  
HADN'T  
BUSTED IN  
LIKE THAT,  
I'DA NEVER  
HEARD  
WHAT SHE  
HAD TO  
SAY.



pff

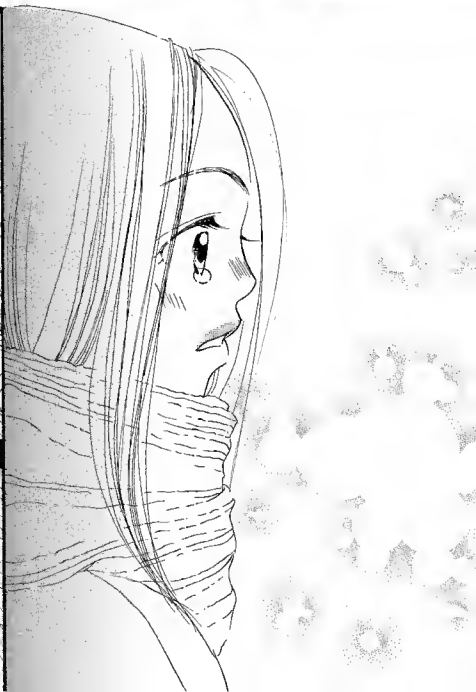


DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
IT.

I WENT  
ON AND  
ON ABOUT  
YOU GUYS  
GETTING  
BACK  
TOGETHER  
AND  
STUFF...

...HUH?  
WHY  
AREN'T  
YOU  
MAD AT  
ME?!

SO OKAY,  
I ADMIT  
I KINDA  
GOT MY  
HOPES  
UP...







...THAT  
ONCE  
YOU BOW  
OUT, YOU  
STAY  
OUT?

WAIT A  
MINUTE!  
DIDN'T  
YOU ONCE  
TELL ME...

BUT NOW  
THAT I  
HEARD THAT,  
I'M FINALLY  
OVER HER  
FOR REAL.



I'M ALL  
TALK AND  
NO WALK,  
TOO.

I'M  
SORRY,  
ÔTANI.

I  
REALLY  
BLEW IT.



...

...NOW  
YOU  
TELL  
ME.

YEAH.

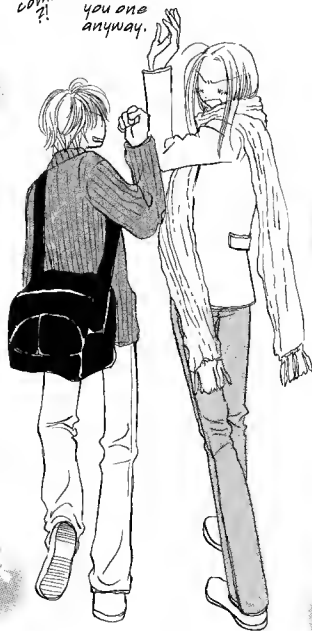
YOU  
SURE  
YOU  
OKAY?

BUT  
DEEP  
INSIDE  
MY  
HEART  
SOME-  
WHERE...

...I'M  
TOTALLY  
RELIEVED  
THAT THOSE  
TWO DIDN'T  
GET BACK  
TOGETHER  
AFTER ALL.

How  
come  
?!  
But  
maybe  
I'll sack  
you one  
anyway.

IS  
THAT  
LOVE?





YET  
ANOTHER  
HOLIDAY  
THAT HOLDS  
ABSOLUTELY  
NO MEANING  
FOR ME.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Capture his heart with  
homemade sweets!

VALENTINE'S  
DAY.

THAT'S  
TRUE.

I THINK  
COOKIES  
MIGHT BE  
EASIER  
TO MAKE,  
DON'T YOU?

Here,  
like these.

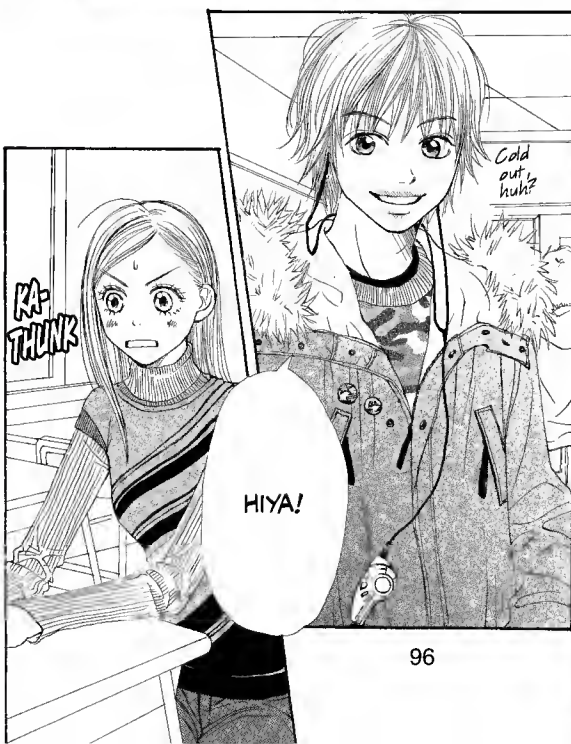
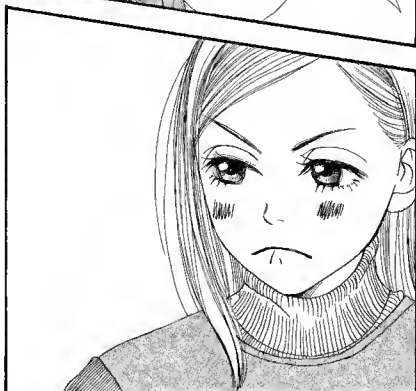
HEY,  
CHIHARU.  
WHAT DO  
YOU THINK  
IS BETTER,  
CHOCOLATE  
COOKIES OR  
CHOCOLATE  
CAKE?



## CHAPTER 7

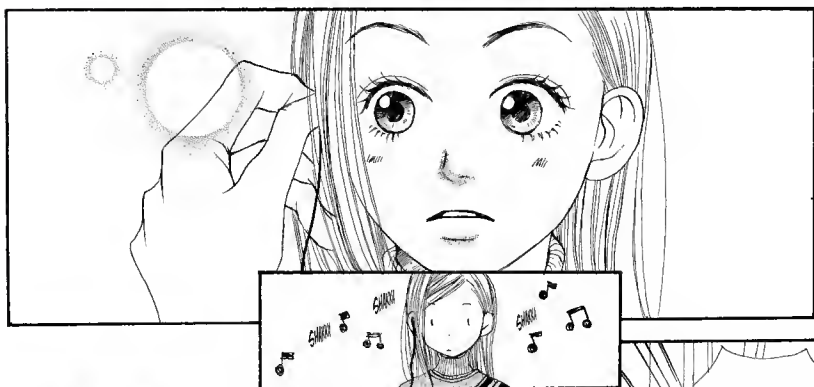
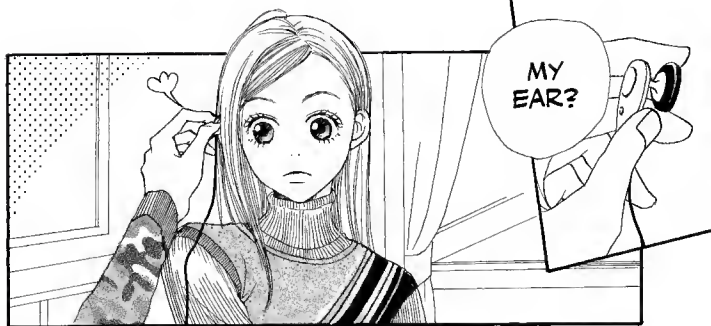














3.

Errr...  
so let's leave the  
hard, complicated  
political discussion  
at that for now...

Oh, come on. You  
were talking about  
nipples. No! Please  
don't say that! I am  
now consumed with  
mortification for  
what I wrote before.  
I think I must've  
been half-asleep.  
Errr...  
so let's leave the  
hard, complicated  
nipples at that for  
now...

ha ha ha ha ha

Too, too stupid for  
words! What is this  
space for, anyway?!  
Oh! Speaking of  
space... Seq's  
"Space Channel 5" is  
really cute. In fact,  
it's so cute you can't  
really concentrate  
on playing the game,  
which makes it  
kinda hard.  
I cry at the end of  
Part 2 no matter  
how many times I do  
it. Ulala is so cute...  
Stay on that  
channel!





I  
MADE  
IT MY-  
SELF!  
♡

I DID  
MAKE A  
MESS  
OF THAT  
THING WITH  
HIS OLD  
GIRLFRIEND,  
BUT...

Yeah,  
sure.

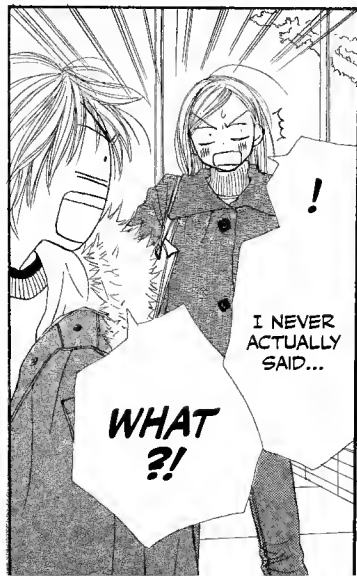
Wanna  
stop for  
a bite?

BUT  
GIVING  
ÔTANI A  
VALENTINE,  
I DON'T  
KNOW...



THERE  
IS JUST  
NO WAY.

...UGH.  
NO  
WAY.



WHAT  
?!

I NEVER  
ACTUALLY  
SAID...

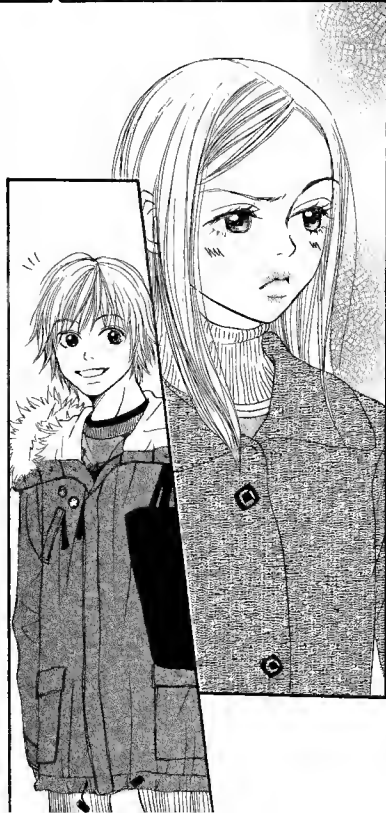


HEY,  
DARLIN'?  
WHAT DO YOU  
WANT FOR  
VALENTINE'S DAY,  
CHOCOLATE  
COOKIES OR  
CHOCOLATE  
CAKE?

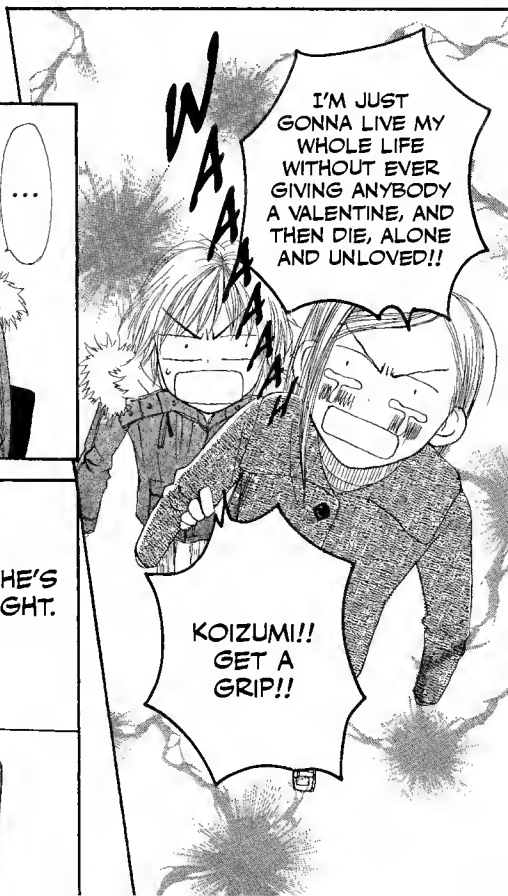
YUP!

ME AND  
CHIHARU  
AND  
RISA,  
TOO.

WHAT'S  
THIS? YOU  
MAKING IT  
YOURSELF?









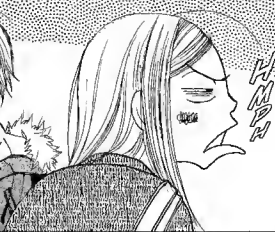


I'LL  
TAKE YOUR  
COOKIES  
OR CAKE OR  
WHATEVER  
YOU MAKE.

FINE.



THAT'S  
NOT WHY,  
OKAY?



OH YEAH,  
THANKS FOR  
THE OFFER,  
I REALLY  
ENJOY HAVING  
PEOPLE FEEL  
SORRY  
FOR ME.



BUT  
WHATEVER...  
IF YOU  
DON'T  
WANNA  
GIVE IT  
TO ME,  
DON'T.  
I DON'T  
CARE.

OH!

I  
HAPPEN  
TO LOVE  
CHOCOLATE.



WELL,  
I NEVER  
SAID  
I WAS  
GIVING  
YOU ANY-  
THING!

UH!

JUST  
THOUGHT  
I'D PUT  
IT OUT  
THERE.

BUT IF  
YOU DO,  
I'D RATHER  
HAVE THE  
CAKE.

WELL...

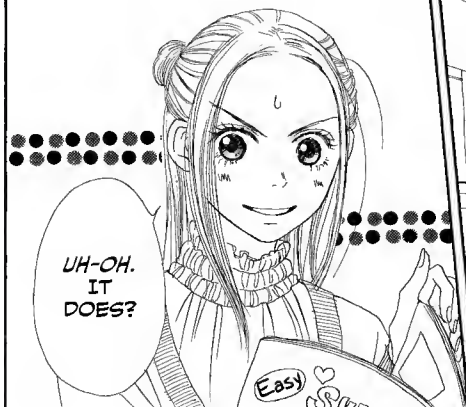
UH!

AS IF  
I'D  
EVER  
DO  
THAT!

WELL,  
FORGET  
IT.







UH-OH.  
IT  
DOES?



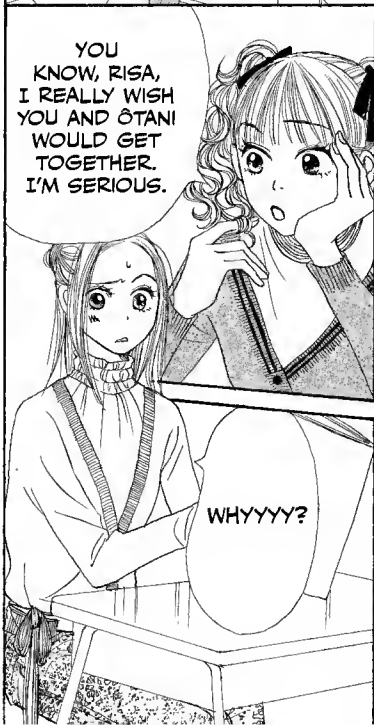
I DON'T  
KNOW  
ABOUT  
CAKE...  
IT LOOKS  
REALLY  
HARD TO  
MAKE.



HMM.

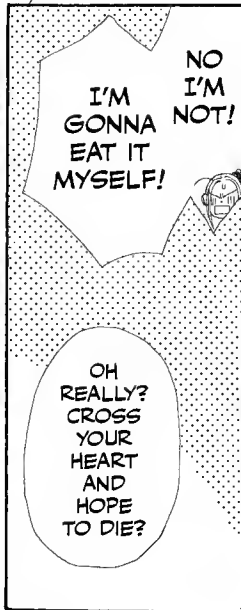
DARN  
IT.

WHAT  
SHOULD  
I DO?



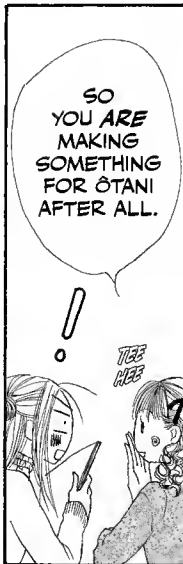
YOU  
KNOW, RISA,  
I REALLY WISH  
YOU AND OTANI  
WOULD GET  
TOGETHER.  
I'M SERIOUS.

WHYYYY?



NO  
I'M  
NOT!  
I'M  
GONNA  
EAT IT  
MYSELF!

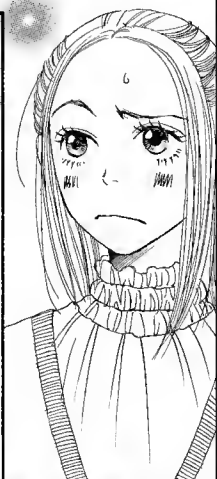
OH  
REALLY?  
CROSS  
YOUR  
HEART  
AND  
HOPE  
TO DIE?



SO  
YOU ARE  
MAKING  
SOMETHING  
FOR OTANI  
AFTER ALL.



WELL,  
GOSH...  
IT'S NOT  
LIKE IT'S  
ALL UP  
TO *ME*...



What?

WHADDAYA  
MEAN, "CAN'T  
YOU"? IT'S  
NOT ABOUT  
IF WE CAN  
OR CAN'T.

COME  
ON,  
CAN'T  
YOU?

THEN WE  
COULD ALL  
DO STUFF  
TOGETHER  
WITHOUT ANY-  
ONE BEING  
LEFT OUT OR  
ANYTHING.

OKAY,  
BUT DON'T  
YOU WANT  
TO? WHY  
DON'T YOU  
JUST START  
GOING  
OUT?



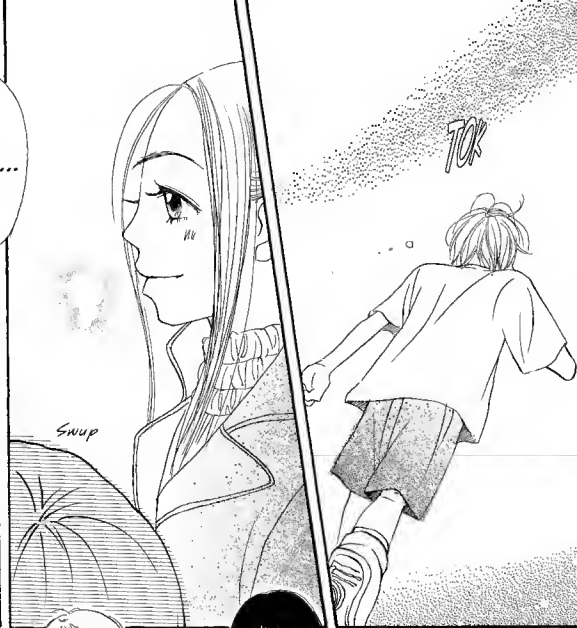
OTANI!!  
YOU  
GOTTA  
MOVE A  
LITTLE  
FASTER!

YES  
SIR!

HE'S  
REALLY  
INTO IT  
TODAY.

HO...





...I  
SUPPOSE...

...THOSE  
GIRLS  
WILL BE  
GIVING HIM  
VALENTINES,  
TOO.

DEFINITELY.

...

I  
KNOW,  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

AS IF  
ÔTANI-KUN  
WOULD BE  
DATING  
SOMEONE  
THAT TALL!

Still,  
yay!

See?



WELL,  
WITH THAT  
MANY I  
GUESS HE  
WON'T BE  
NEEDING  
MINE.

I see  
what  
you  
mean.

OHhhh.

ÔTANI  
HAPPENS  
TO HAVE  
A TYPE,  
AFTER  
ALL.

THAT'S  
RIGHT.

HUH?

PLUS  
THAT ONE  
IN THE  
MIDDLE  
WAS  
TOTALLY  
HIS TYPE  
AND  
EVERY-  
THING.



WATAMINT



...HE'D JUST  
BE LIKE,  
"NO WAY  
I'M DATING  
A JUMBO-  
GAL LIKE  
YOU."

...EVEN  
IF I  
WANT  
US TO  
GO  
OUT...

AND  
SHE'S THE  
EXACT  
OPPOSITE  
OF BIG  
OL' ME.

HE LIKES  
TEENY-  
TINY CUTE  
LITTLE  
GIRLS,  
SO...



NOTHING!!  
I MUST BE  
REALLY  
TIRED OR  
SOME-  
THING!!

hff

HUH?

WHO  
SAYS I  
DO?!  
GIMME A  
BREAK!!

WHADDAYA  
MEAN,  
"EVEN IF I  
WANT US  
TO GO  
OUT"?!?

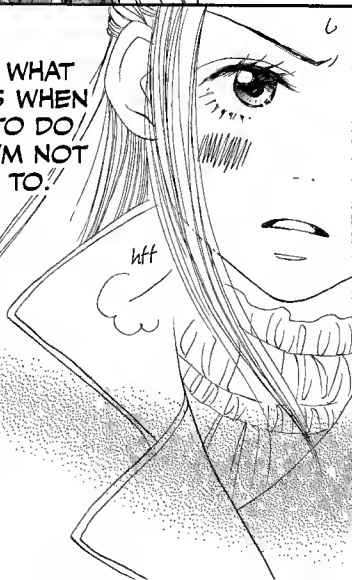


THIS IS WHAT  
HAPPENS WHEN  
I TRY TO DO  
STUFF I'M NOT  
USED TO.

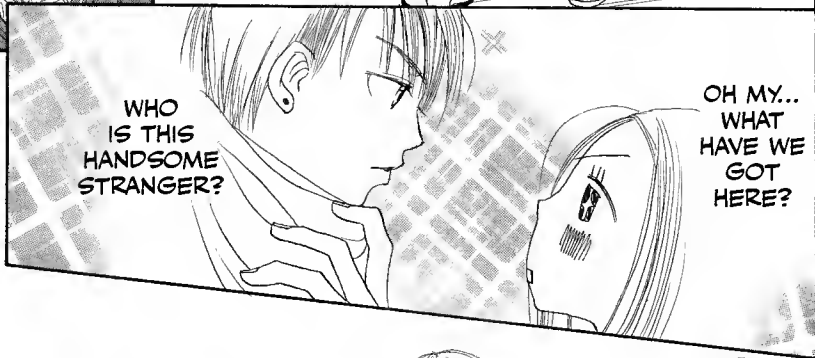
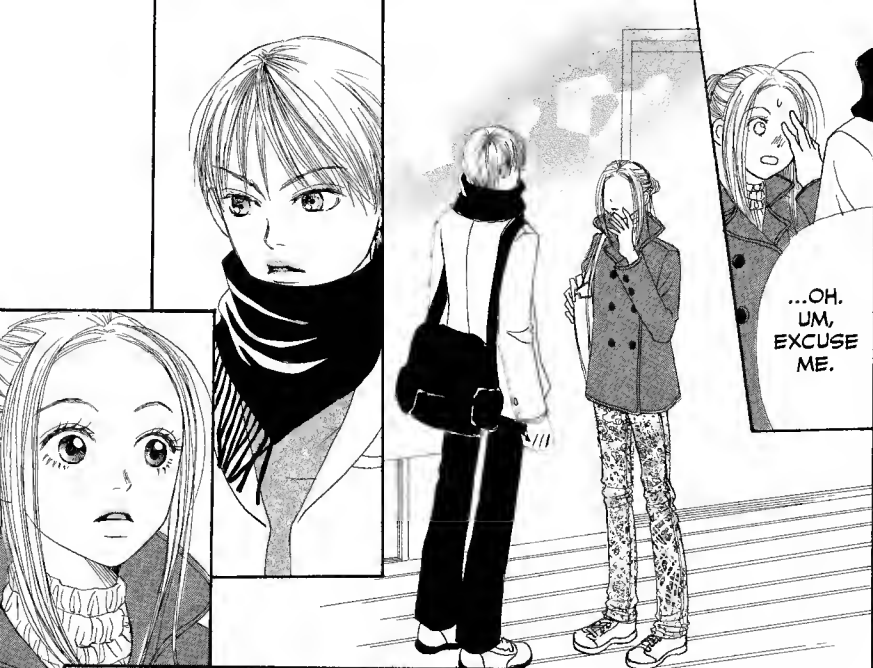
FORGET IT.  
NO VALENTINE.

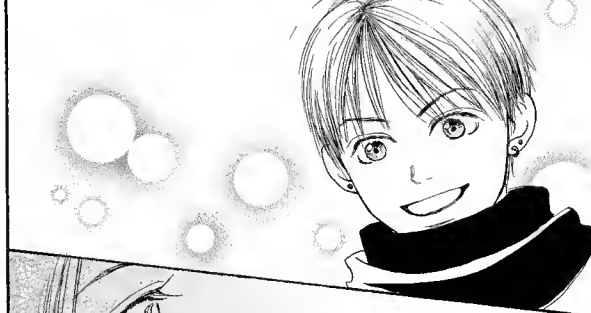
WHHHH

hff

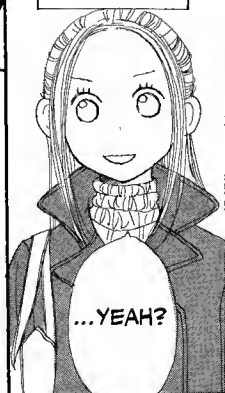








...?



...YEAH?



**RISA!**



IT'S  
ME!  
HARUKA!

HARUKA  
FUKA-  
GAWA!

UH...  
UH...  
UH...  
EXCUSE  
ME,  
BUT...

WH-  
WH-  
WHO  
ARE  
YOU?!

YOU KNOW!  
WE LIVED IN  
THE SAME  
NEIGHBOR-  
HOOD BACK  
IN GRADE  
SCHOOL!

...HARUKA  
...?

HUH  
??!

RISA-  
AAAAA!

ARE YOU  
GUYS  
PICKING  
ON  
HARUKA  
AGAIN?!

BETCHA  
HE'S  
GONNA  
GROW  
BOOBS IN  
A COUPLE  
YEARS.

WHADDAYA  
EXPECT,  
WITH  
A GIRLY  
NAME  
LIKE  
HARUKA?

CRY-  
BABY'S  
CRYING  
AGAIN!

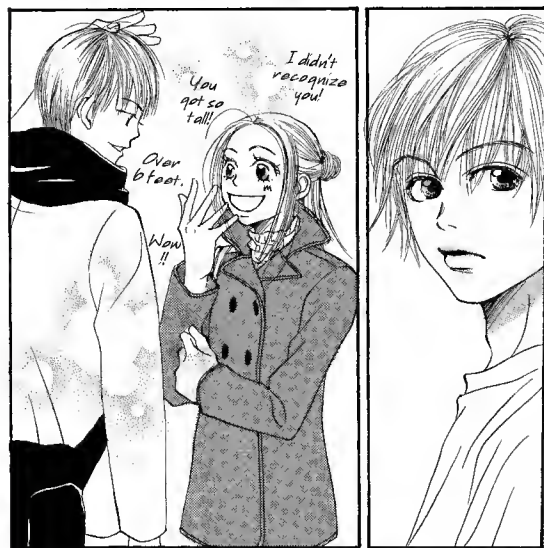
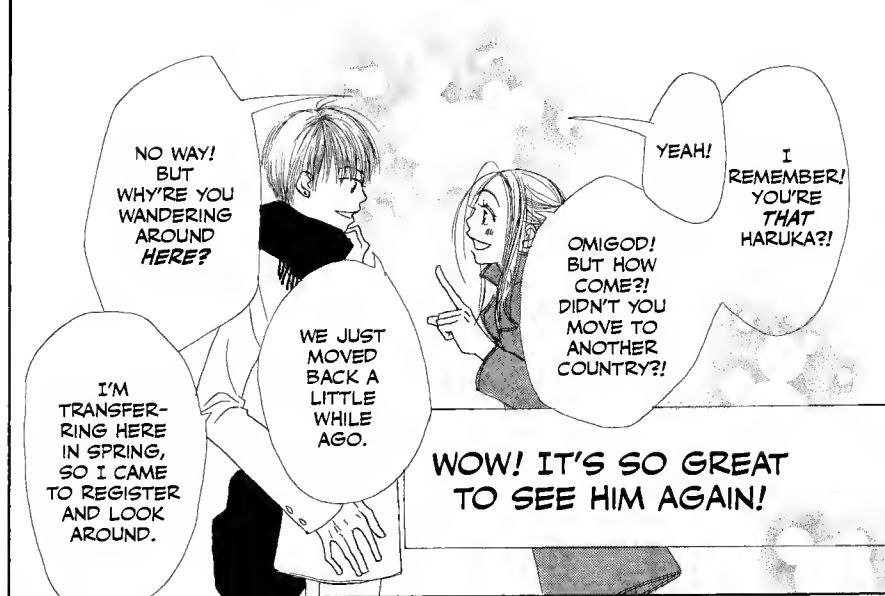
BACK IN  
GRADE  
SCHOOL  
...?

OH!

Ugh,  
it's  
giant-  
girl!

HEY!

I AM NOT  
GOING  
TO GROW  
BOOBIES!







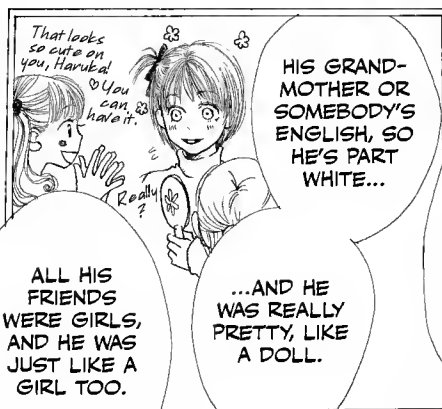
WHO  
THE HECK  
WAS THAT  
YESTERDAY?

BUT THAT  
WAS THE  
FIRST TIME  
I SAW HIM  
SINCE HE  
MOVED AWAY  
IN FIFTH  
GRADE.

A  
CHILD-  
HOOD  
BUDDY,  
SORTA?

UH-  
HUH.

HM?  
OHH.



HIS GRAND-  
MOTHER OR  
SOMEBODY'S  
ENGLISH, SO  
HE'S PART  
WHITE...

...AND HE  
WAS REALLY  
PRETTY, LIKE  
A DOLL.

ALL HIS  
FRIENDS  
WERE GIRLS,  
AND HE WAS  
JUST LIKE A  
GIRL TOO.



HE  
LOOKED  
RIGHT  
UP YOUR  
ALLEY.  
TALL AND  
HAND-  
SOME.

I MEAN,  
HE USED  
TO BE THIS  
TOTAL CRY-  
BABY SISSY  
WHEN WE  
WERE KIDS.

YEAH,  
BUT  
THERE'S  
NO WAY.



TOO  
HONEST  
FOR MY  
OWN  
GOOD!!

I AM  
SUCH AN  
IDIOT!!

I COULD'VE  
LOOKED  
GOOD IF I'D  
SAID HE WAS  
MY OLD  
BOYFRIEND!!



OH.  
WELL,  
THAT'S  
KINDA  
PATHETIC.

RIGHT?

SO JUST  
BECAUSE HE  
SUDDENLY  
SHOWS UP  
ALL TALL AND  
HANDSOME,  
I CAN'T  
REALLY...

I  
BLEW  
IT!!



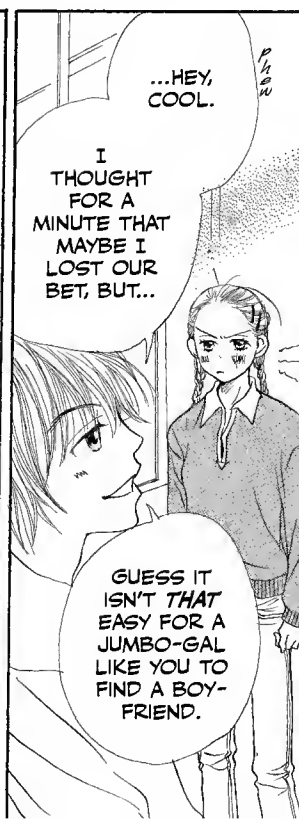
THAT  
CD  
STORE.

WHADDAYA  
SAY WE  
GO LOOK  
FOR OLD  
UMIBÔZU  
CDS AGAIN?



I  
GUESS  
NOT!!  
CUZ I'M  
JUST-

FREE  
AS USUAL  
AFTER  
SCHOOL  
TODAY?



...HEY,  
COOL.

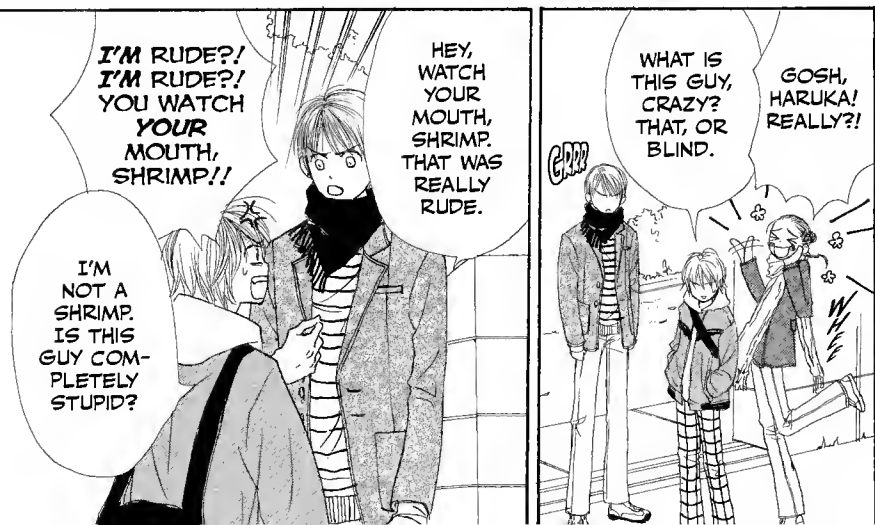
I  
THOUGHT  
FOR A  
MINUTE THAT  
MAYBE I  
LOST OUR  
BET, BUT...

GUESS IT  
ISN'T *THAT*  
EASY FOR A  
JUMBO-GAL  
LIKE YOU TO  
FIND A BOY-  
FRIEND.











WHAT  
THE HECK  
IS THAT  
DUDE'S  
PROBLEM?!



WHAT  
IS  
GOING  
ON?!

HUNH  
?!

ZWAP

RISA  
IS MY  
HERO,  
NOT  
YOURS!

I'M NOT  
GIVING  
HER TO  
YOU OR  
ANYBODY  
ELSE!!

HEH?

YAY

C'MON,  
RISA,  
LET'S  
GO!

WHA...

HOLD  
ON,  
HARUKA?!

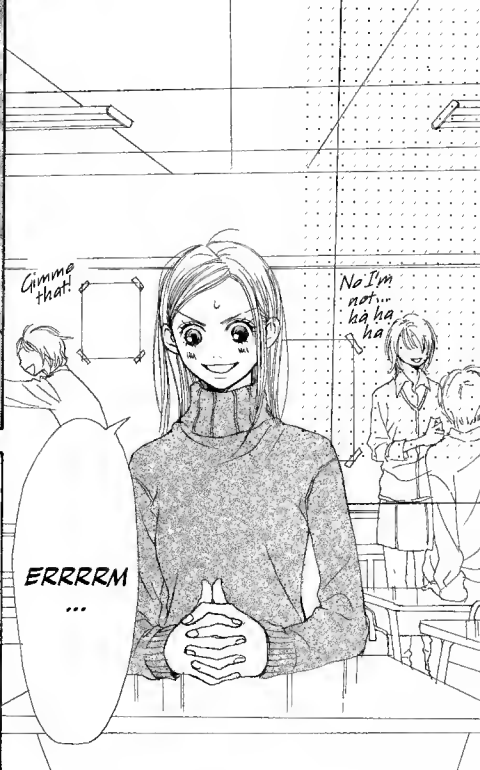
STOMP  
STOMP  
STOMP



IF YOU  
CONSIDER  
**RUDE** AND  
**EVIL** TO BE  
SYNONYMS  
FOR "PRETTY  
NICE," I  
GUESS HE  
MIGHT BE.

*hmph*

HE'S  
ACTUALLY  
A PRETTY  
NICE GUY,  
YOU  
KNOW?



*Gimme that!*

*No I'm not...  
ha ha ha*

**ERRRRM**  
...



**HERO.**  
**I DON'T**  
**KNOW...**

**HIS**  
**HERO,**  
**HMM...**

ANY  
DUDE WHO  
WANTS  
A GIRL  
COMING TO  
HIS RESCUE  
ALL THE  
TIME IS  
PATHETIC.



**I'M NOT**  
**DOING**  
**ANYTHING!!**  
**IT'S ALL**  
**HARUKA!**  
**I HAVE**  
**NOTHING**  
**TO DO**  
**WITH IT!**

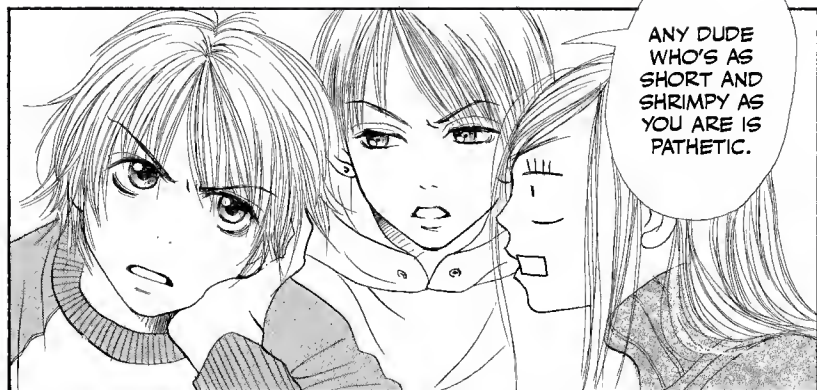
**YOU'RE**  
**HIS HERO,**  
**RIGHT?**  
**SO DO**  
**SOMETHING**  
**ABOUT IT!**

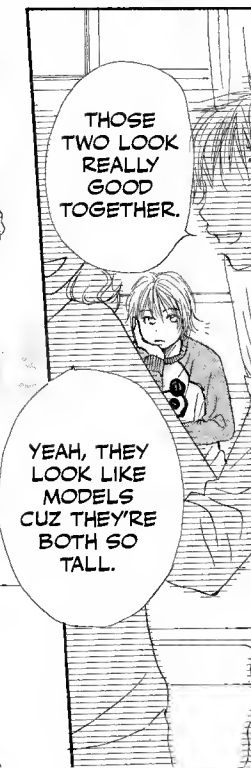
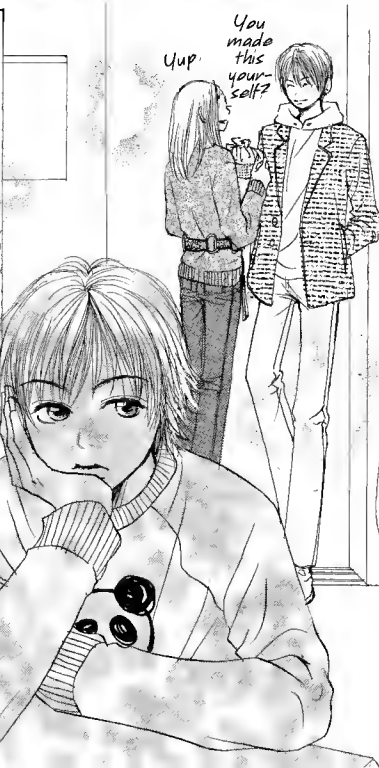
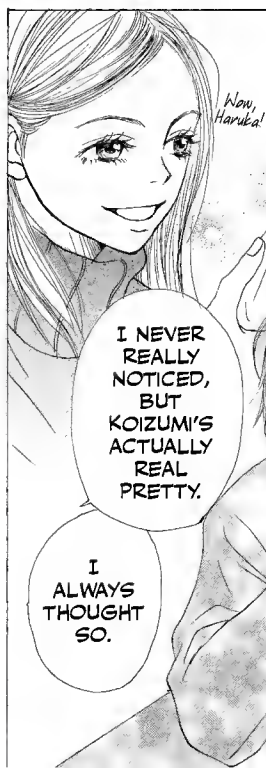
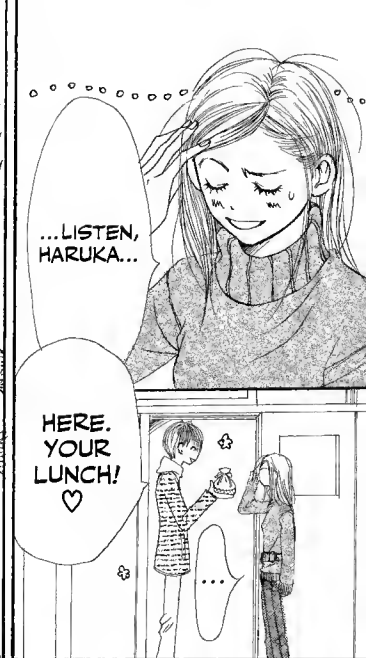
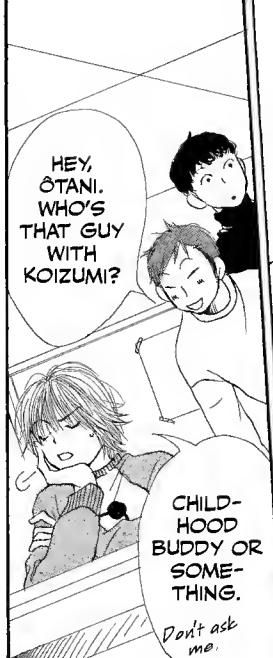


**UH.**  
**WELL...**

**JUST**  
**DON'T**  
**GET *ME***  
**INVOLVED**  
**IN ANY-**  
**THING**  
**DUMB,**  
**OKAY?**







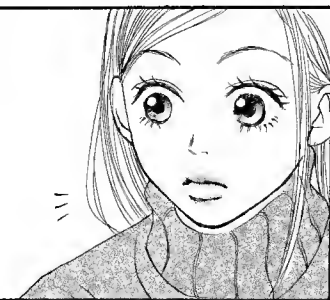
WHAT, IT'S  
MY FAULT  
THAT  
KOIZUMI'S  
SUCH A  
GIANT?!

Huh?!

YOU GUYS  
SOUND  
LIKE THAT  
JERK OVER  
THERE, FER  
CRYIN' OUT  
LOUD!

YEAH?  
BUT WHEN  
SHE'S WITH  
ÔTANI, SHE  
JUST LOOKS  
LIKE ALL  
KYOJIN  
TO ME.

SEE HER  
WITH HIM  
AND YOU  
START  
THINKING  
IT IS,  
YEAH.

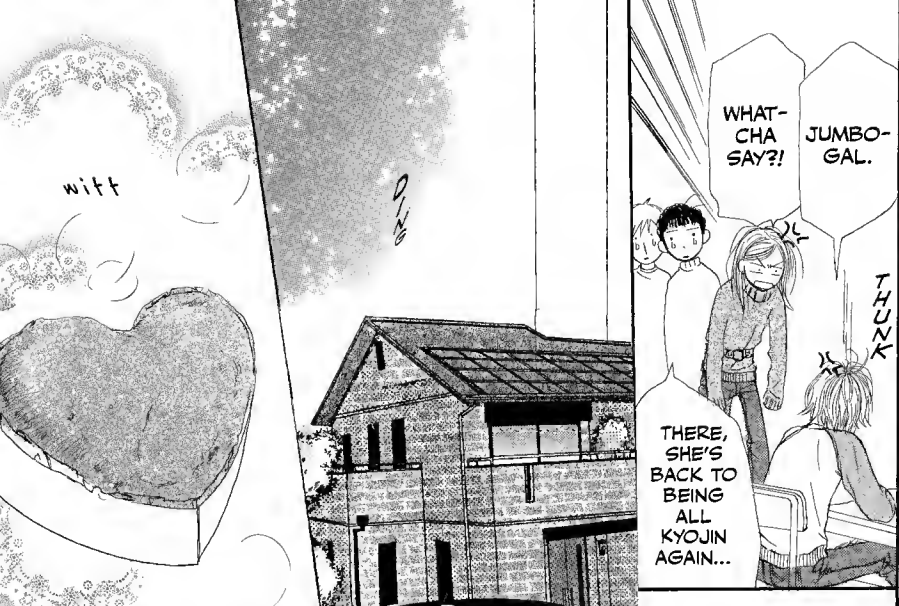


URGH...

I DUNNO,  
HE KINDA  
WEARS  
ME OUT.









I MEAN,  
DOES  
**NOBODY**  
EVER SEE  
ME AS  
**FEMALE?!**

A  
HERO'S  
USUALLY  
A **GUY**,  
RIGHT?!

Oh  
no...

BUT  
HE SAID  
YOU WERE  
BEAUTIFUL,  
REMEMBER?

HARUKA  
ISN'T  
IN LOVE  
WITH ME.  
HE SAYS  
I'M HIS  
**HERO**.

HIS  
HERO  
...?

HEY,  
WANNA  
MAKE  
ONE  
FOR  
HIM,  
TOO?

YOU THINK  
HARUKA'S IN  
LOVE WITH  
RISA, YOU  
GUYS?

WHAAAT?  
NOOOOO.

WELL,  
YOU KNOW.  
DOING GIRLY  
THINGS LIKE  
OTHER GIRLS,  
ONCE IN  
A WHILE.  
LIKE THIS.

Here  
you  
go.

YOU  
COULD  
HAVE  
GUYS  
LINED UP  
AROUND  
THE  
BLOCK  
IF YOU  
TRIED,  
RISA.

I THINK  
YOU'RE  
PRETTY.

GET  
OUTTA  
HERE!

AND  
WHADDAYA  
MEAN  
BY "IF I  
TRIED,"  
ANYWAY?!



IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING, ANYWAY.



...HE  
PRACTICALLY  
**BEGGED**  
ME TO  
GIVE HIM  
CHOCOLATE  
CAKE FOR  
VALENTINE'S  
DAY.

DID  
NOT

WELL,  
AFTER  
ALL...

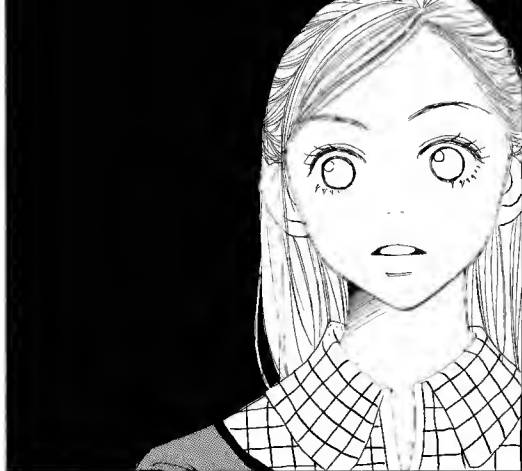
...I **DID**  
PUT HIM  
THROUGH A  
LOT OVER  
HIS OLD  
GIRLFRIEND,  
AND...

IT  
DOESN'T  
MEAN  
ANY-  
THING,  
BUT...

SO  
WHAT  
CAN I  
DO?

...NO  
THANKS.





NO  
THANKS.

...UH...  
EXCUSE  
ME?  
WHAT  
DID YOU  
JUST...



TOO  
BAD.

JUST  
HANG  
ON A  
SEC!!

YOU'RE  
MAKING ME  
LOOK LIKE  
A FULL-  
ON DORK  
HERE!!



I  
NEVER  
SAID I  
WANTED  
ONE!!

BUT YOU  
SAID YOU  
WANTED  
ONE SO  
I DID!!

I WASN'T  
GOING  
TO GIVE  
ANYBODY A  
VALENTINE  
OR DO  
ANYTHING  
TODAY...

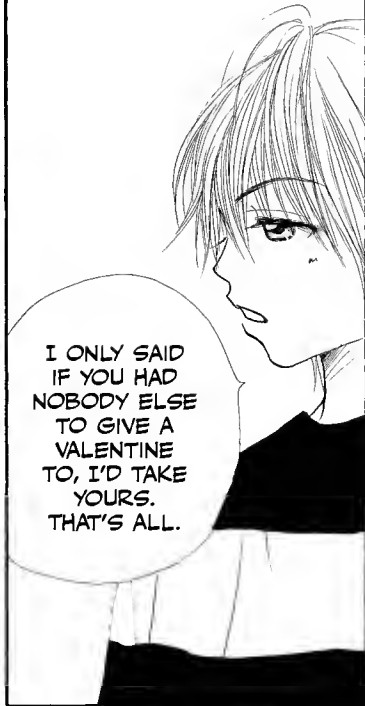
TOO  
BAD  
...?!





WELL,  
NOW YOU  
DO HAVE  
SOMEBODY  
ELSE TO  
GIVE IT  
TO. THAT  
BUTT-MUNCH  
HARUKA.

...SO I'M  
TRYING  
TO GIVE  
IT TO  
YOU...



I ONLY SAID  
IF YOU HAD  
NOBODY ELSE  
TO GIVE A  
VALENTINE  
TO, I'D TAKE  
YOURS.  
THAT'S ALL.

Where,  
where?!

NO WAY,  
FOR  
REAL?!

WOO-  
HOO!

BUT  
HARUKA  
IS JUST  
A...

KOIZUMI'S  
GIVING  
OTANI A  
VALENTINE,  
EVERY-  
BODY!!



WHAT  
?



OH,  
COME  
ON.

IT  
SMELLS  
LIKE  
CHOCOLATE  
TO ME.

!!

WELL,  
IT ISN'T  
FOR ME.



CDS!! SHE'S  
LENDING ME  
SOME CDS!  
RIGHT,  
KOIZUMI?!

THIS  
ISN'T!  
IT'S,  
UH...

NGH!

What's  
going  
on?

UH,  
YEAH!!

SWARM

SWARM



WHAT'RE  
YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?!

...WHO  
SAYS?

I  
AM?

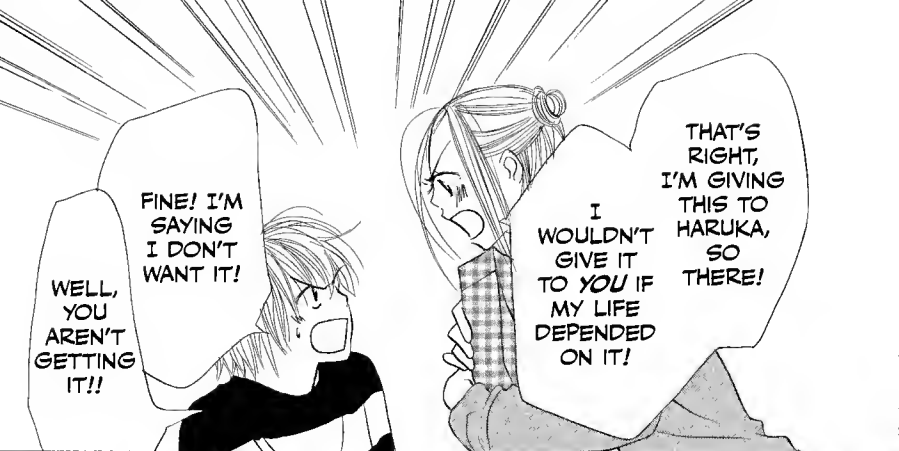
FORGET  
WHAT?

WELL,  
FINE!  
FORGET  
IT!

RIGHT?

SHE'S  
GIVING  
IT  
TO THAT  
CHILDHOOD  
BUDDY  
OF HERS.





WELL, YOU  
AREN'T  
GETTING  
IT!!

FINE! I'M  
SAYING  
I DON'T  
WANT IT!

THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
I'M GIVING  
THIS TO  
HARUKA,  
SO  
THERE!

I  
WOULDN'T  
GIVE IT  
TO *YOU* IF  
MY LIFE  
DEPENDED  
ON IT!

...JERK.



THANKS  
A LOT.

WHAT DID  
I MAKE  
THIS FOR?



WELL,  
ACTUALLY,  
THAT'S  
JUST AN  
EXCUSE  
...

HARUKA  
...

...ACTU-  
ALLY...

THE REAL  
REASON  
I'M HERE IS,  
I WAS HOPING  
YOU MIGHT  
GIVE ME A  
VALENTINE.

I CAME  
TO WALK  
YOU  
HOME  
AGAIN.

WHEN  
I TOLD  
MYSELF...

I WAS  
ACTUALLY  
KINDA  
STOKED.

AND  
WHEN  
HE SAID  
HE'D  
TAKE  
MINE.

WELL.

HERE  
YOU  
ARE.

I THINK  
I KINDA  
**WANTED**  
TO GIVE  
HIM A  
VALENTINE.

...THAT I'D  
"PUT HIM  
THROUGH  
A LOT,"  
THAT WAS  
JUST AN  
EXCUSE,  
TOO.







YOU'RE  
VERY  
WELCOME!!

FOR  
REAL?!  
GOSH,  
RISA,  
THANK  
YOU!!

THAT  
BIG  
JERK...

How about some stationery?  
Use a copier to make as many sheets as you want.  
What a pain in the butt!!  
Uh-oh... maybe you don't want it...after all...?

**NO.**

.....



.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

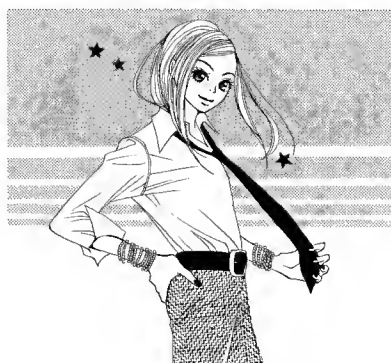
.....

.....

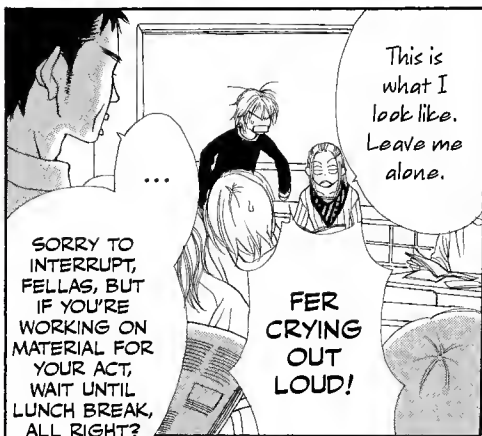
**LOVELY \* COMPLEX**

(c) AYA NAKAHARA





## CHAPTER 8









...TO A  
CAKE  
SOMEONE  
WENT TO  
A LOT OF  
TROUBLE  
TO MAKE  
FOR HIM.

NO  
THANKS.

WE ARE  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
A GUY  
WHO'LL  
SAY  
STUFF  
LIKE...

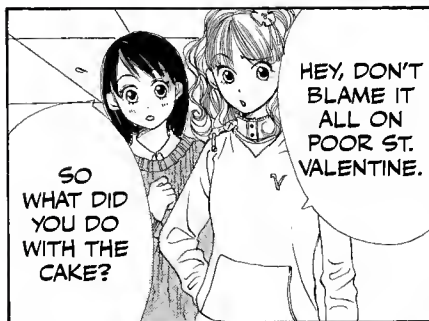
I  
MEAN  
TO  
SAY...



...TALK  
ABOUT  
MORTIFY-  
ING.

**NO THANKS.**

IF IT  
WAS ON  
TV, I BET  
THEY'D HAVE  
CAPTIONED  
IT.



SO  
WHAT DID  
YOU DO  
WITH THE  
CAKE?

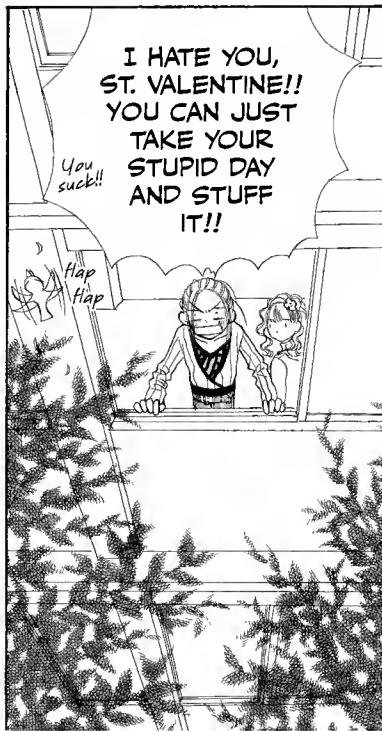
HEY, DON'T  
BLAME IT  
ALL ON  
POOR ST.  
VALENTINE.



SEE?  
SHE  
IS SO  
STUPID.

R / / S A A A !

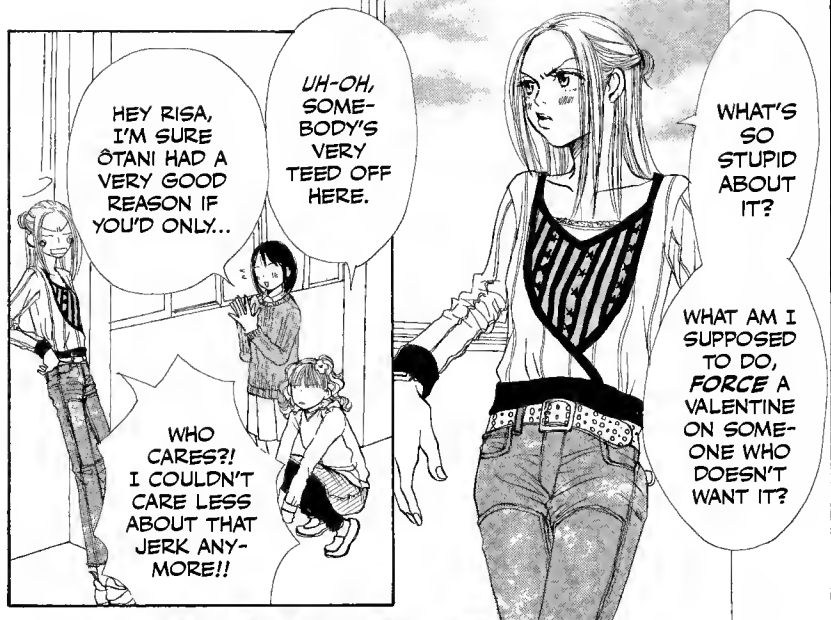
GAVE  
IT TO  
HARUKA.



I HATE YOU,  
ST. VALENTINE!!  
YOU CAN JUST  
TAKE YOUR  
STUPID DAY  
AND STUFF  
IT!!

*You  
suck!!*

*Flap  
flap*



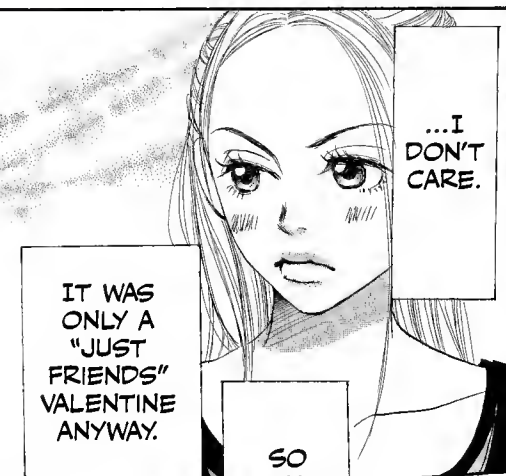
HEY RISA,  
I'M SURE  
OTANI HAD A  
VERY GOOD  
REASON IF  
YOU'D ONLY...

UH-OH,  
SOME-  
BODY'S  
VERY  
TEED OFF  
HERE.

WHAT'S  
SO  
STUPID  
ABOUT  
IT?

WHO  
CARES?!  
I COULDN'T  
CARE LESS  
ABOUT THAT  
JERK ANY-  
MORE!!

WHAT AM I  
SUPPOSED  
TO DO,  
**FORCE** A  
VALENTINE  
ON SOME-  
ONE WHO  
DOESN'T  
WANT IT?



IT WAS  
ONLY A  
"JUST  
FRIENDS"  
VALENTINE  
ANYWAY.

...I  
DON'T  
CARE.

SO  
WHAT  
IF HE  
DIDN'T  
WANT  
IT?



I REFUSE  
TO EVER DO  
ANYTHING  
GIRLY AGAIN  
AS LONG  
AS I LIVE!!

I'M  
THROUGH  
WITH IT!

I'LL JUST  
LET MY  
OVARIES  
SHRIVEL UP  
AND STOP  
PRODUCING  
WHATEVER  
THEY  
PRODUCE!

I'LL  
SPROUT  
HAIR ALL  
OVER  
MY BODY  
AND DIE,  
ALONE AND  
UNLOVED!!

Hair?

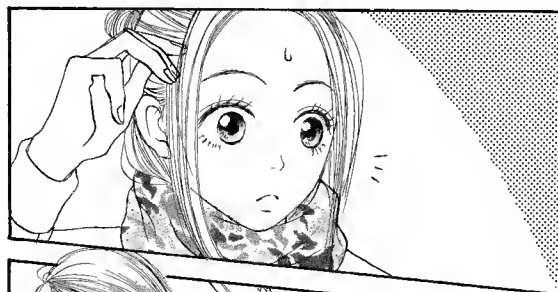


Bzzzz  
Bzzzz









4.

Errrm...

This is the last one.  
My apologies to those  
of you who're bothering  
to read this.  
Why can't I think  
of anything more  
interesting to write...?

Well, I really hope I get  
to meet you all again in  
Vol. 3.

At's well that ends well!  
Thank you for your  
patience!

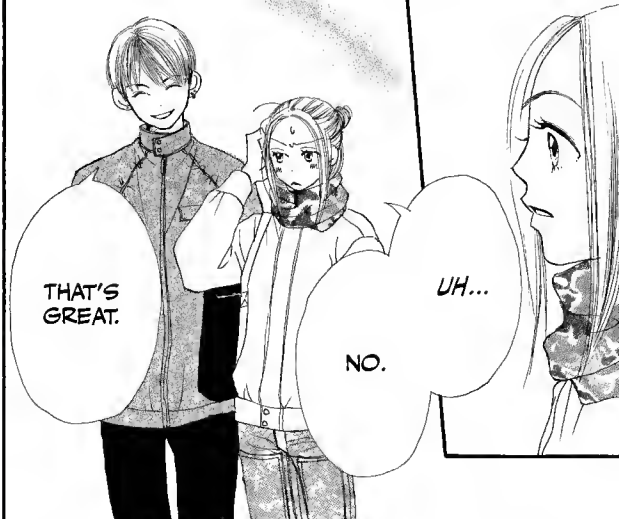
Chia ♡

2002. 6

Special thanks to...

Rumiko Sawada  
Nana Ikebe  
Mimi Murai  
Ikuko Matsuo  
Etsuko Yamamoto  
Aki Nakahara

and  
you







I DON'T  
HAVE TO  
GIVE A  
VALENTINE  
OR ANY-  
THING ELSE  
TO THAT  
OBNOXIOUS  
SHRIMP.

THAT'S  
EXACTLY  
RIGHT.

"I ONLY SAID  
IF YOU HAD  
NOBODY ELSE  
TO GIVE A  
VALENTINE TO,  
I'D TAKE  
YOURS."

"NOW YOU  
HAVE THAT  
HARUKA  
TO GIVE  
IT TO."



IS SOME-  
BODY  
JEALOUS?

AS IF,  
YOU  
STUPID  
PINHEAD  
DORK!!

WHAT IS  
WITH THAT  
SUPER-  
IRRITATING  
PAIN-IN-  
THE-BUTT  
DUDE?!

OH,  
JEEZ.  
THERE  
SHE  
GOES.

mwah

RISA?  
ARE YOU  
IN A BAD  
MOOD?

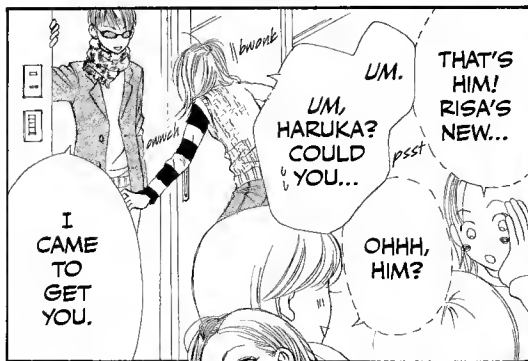
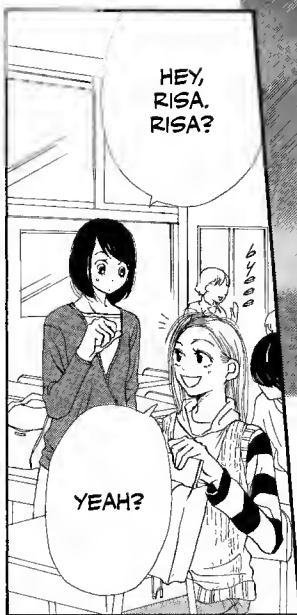
I HAVE  
HARUKA,  
SO  
THERE!

NO! I  
HAPPEN  
TO BE IN  
A VERY  
GOOD  
MOOD!!

HEY!  
STOP  
PICKING  
ON MY  
BABY,  
YOU!

THE  
OTANI  
I KNOW  
DOESN'T  
YELL AT  
ME LIKE  
THAT...







Didja hear me?

**MOVE IT.**

RISA, COULD YOU FACE FORWARD FOR A SEC?

OH.

HEH?



OHH. BECAUSE WE'RE BOTH TALL...

**OUTTA MY WAY.**



**HEY! I'M TALKING TO YA, DOPE!**

YOU FREE TODAY?

YOU HEAR ME??

I GUESS SO, YEAH.

Calm down

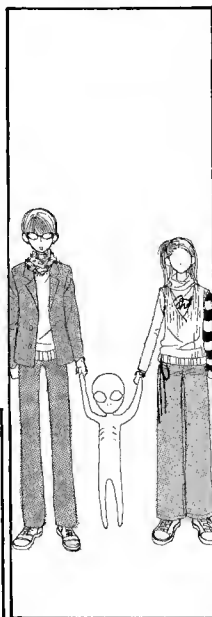
**I'LL KILL YOU!!!**



**WHAT AM I, ON MUTE?! HEY!! I'M TALKING TO YA!!**

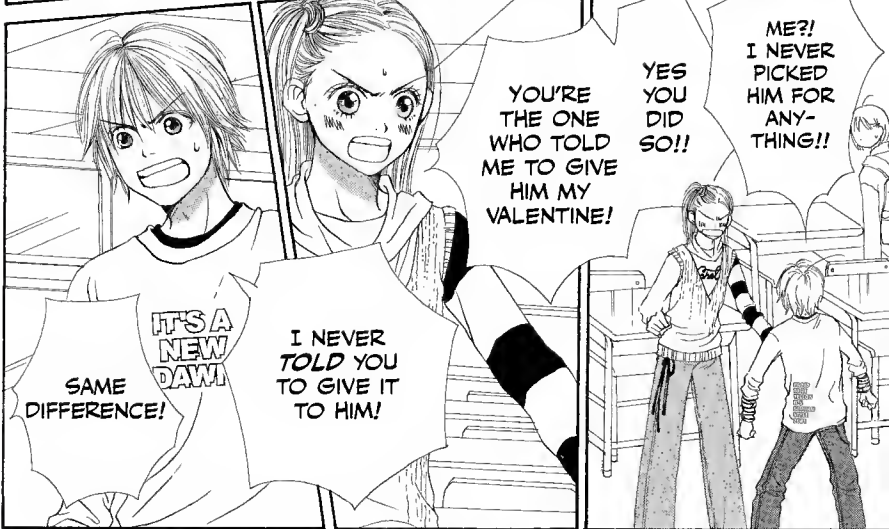
SO LET'S GO DO SOMETHING AGAIN.

**YOU ARE DEAD MEAT! CUZ I WILL KILL YOU!!**



THE CAPTURED SPACE ALIEN.







KA

...HANG  
OUT WITH  
HARUKA,  
AND WE  
"MAKE  
A GREAT  
COUPLE."

HANG OUT  
WITH ÔTANI,  
AND ALL  
WE ARE IS  
A COMEDY  
DUO, BUT...

WELL,  
WELL.

BWOX

IT'S A  
NEW  
DAWN

NOTHING,  
NOTHING,  
NOTHING!

LET'S  
GO.

YEAH,  
THAT'S  
RIGHT.  
GET  
OUTTA  
HERE.

WHAT'RE  
YOU SO  
MAD  
ABOUT?

HEH?!

...

LET'S  
PLAY THAT  
ONE OVER  
THERE!

HEY!

UH,  
I'M NOT  
REALLY...

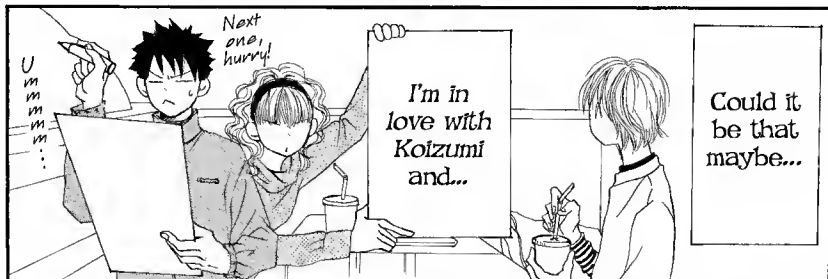
HEY,  
RISA?

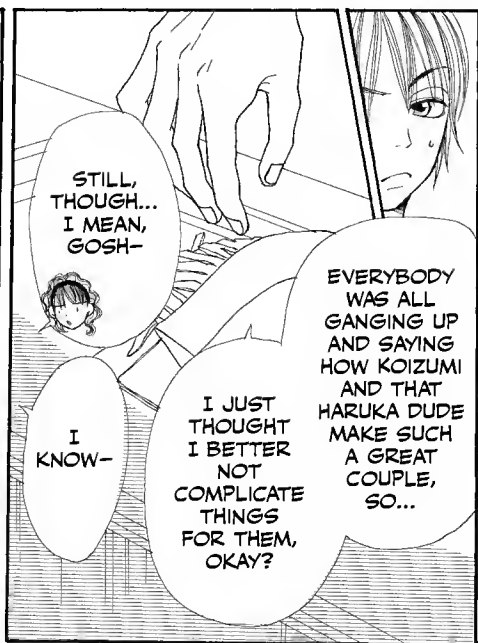
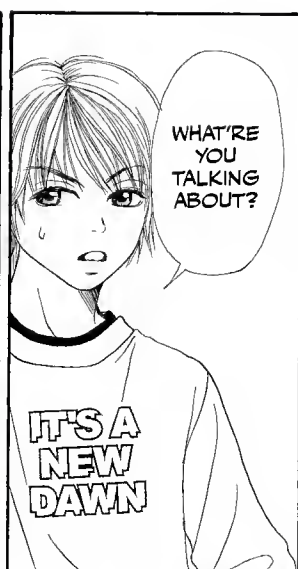
WOW,  
RISA!  
YOU'RE  
LOOK, AMAZING!  
#1.

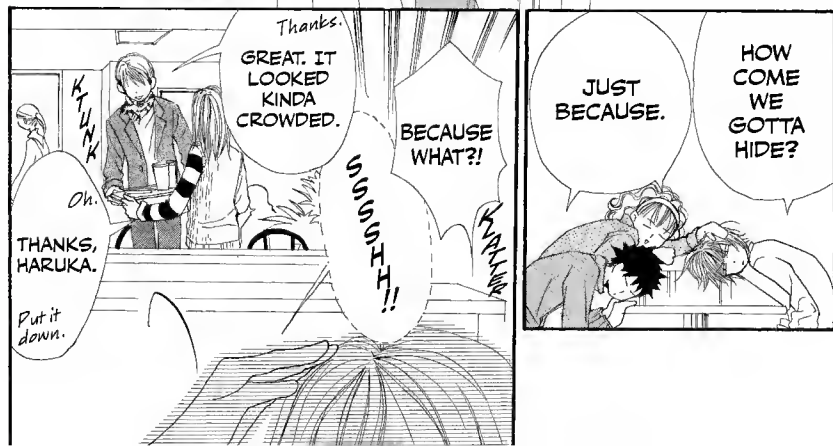
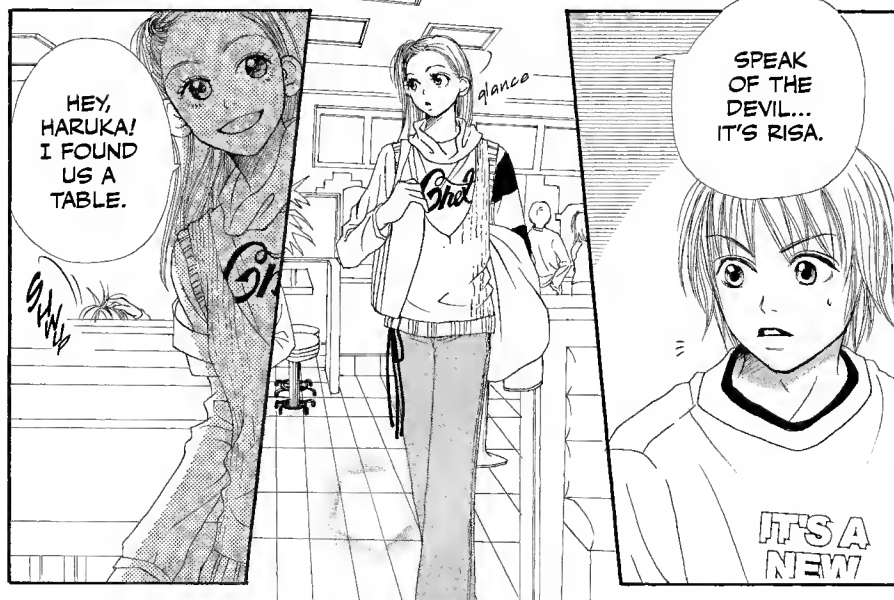
paranappa  
ree  
shwooo

Why did I say that to her? What got into me that day?

And what is this strange, fuzzy feeling in my heart?









YEAH. IT'S  
OBVIOUS  
FROM THE  
MOMENT YOU  
HOLD THE  
JOYSTICK.

YEAH?

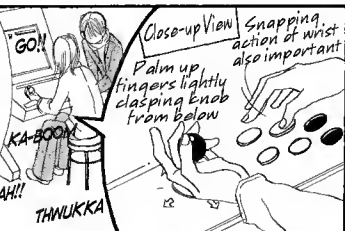
YOU'RE A  
GAMING  
WIZARD,  
RISA.  
LIKE, A  
TOTAL  
PRO.

AAAH!

*satisfied*

THAT  
WAS SO  
MUCH  
FUN!

KINDA  
BLEW  
ME  
AWAY.



OH, PLEASE.  
THERE IS  
NOTHING SEXY  
ABOUT BEING  
A PRO-LEVEL  
GAMER.

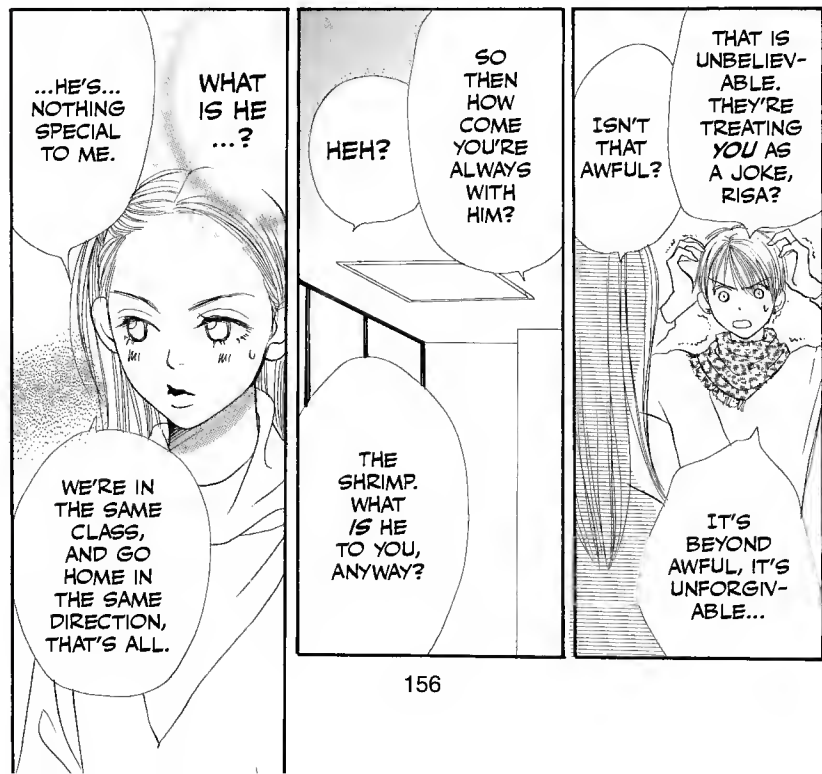
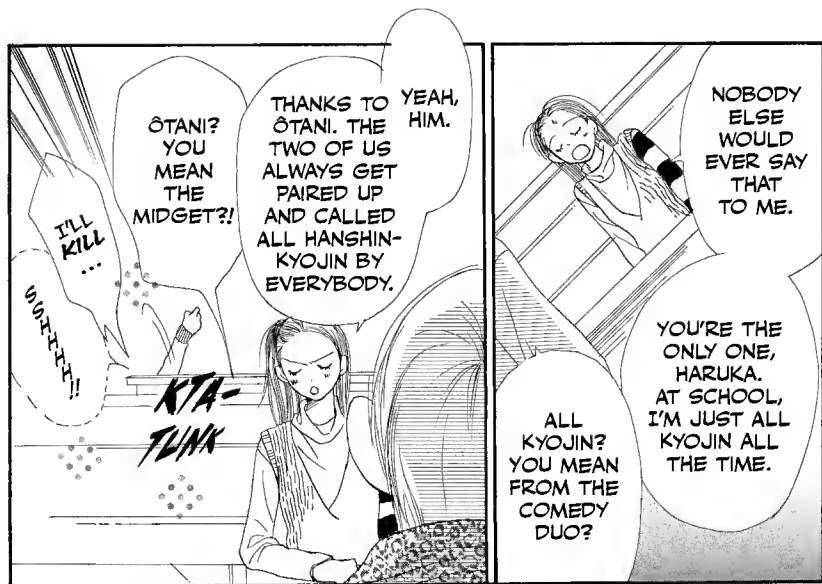
NO MATTER  
WHAT YOU DO,  
RISA, YOU ARE  
SO COOL!

Hee

*chuckle*

WHO  
SAYS?

IT'S ONE  
OF THE  
THINGS  
I LOVE  
ABOUT  
YOU, RISA.

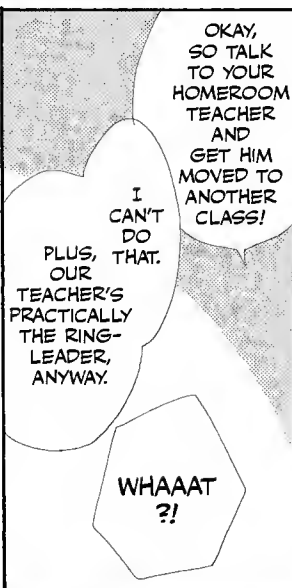




WHY NOT?  
YOU HATE  
BEING  
TURNED  
INTO A  
JOKE LIKE  
THAT,  
RIGHT,  
RISA?!

HUH?!  
YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE  
TO DO  
THAT!

WHAT  
KIND OF  
TEACHER  
IS THAT?!  
I'M GONNA  
REPORT  
HIM TO THE  
PRINCIPAL  
FOR YOU!

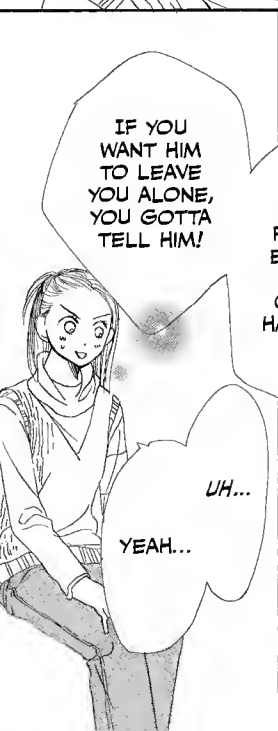


OKAY,  
SO TALK  
TO YOUR  
HOMEROOM  
TEACHER  
AND  
GET HIM  
MOVED TO  
ANOTHER  
CLASS!

I  
CAN'T  
DO  
THAT.

PLUS,  
OUR  
TEACHER'S  
PRACTICALLY  
THE RING-  
LEADER,  
ANYWAY.

WHAAAT  
?!



IF YOU  
WANT HIM  
TO LEAVE  
YOU ALONE,  
YOU GOTTA  
TELL HIM!

I SWEAR,  
FOR HIM TO  
EVEN STAND  
NEAR YOU  
COUNTS AS  
HARASSMENT!

AND  
NOBODY  
EVEN  
NOTICES  
CUZ YOU'RE  
ALWAYS  
WITH THAT  
DORKY  
LITTLE  
SHRIMP!

YOU  
ARE  
COOL,  
RISA!  
YOU'RE  
BEAUTI-  
FUL!

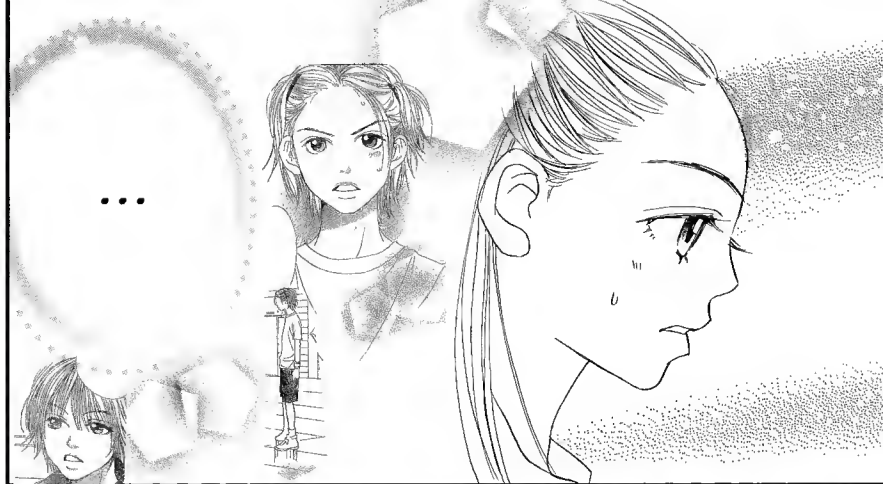
WELL,  
YEAH...  
BUT  
SEE?

UH...

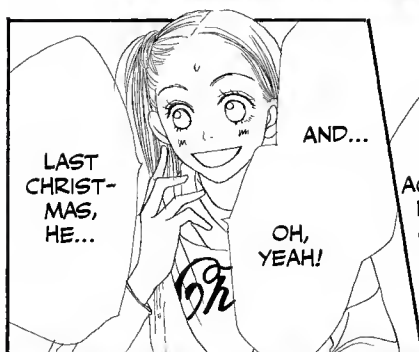
YEAH...



NGAARR!



BUT...



LAST  
CHRIST-  
MAS,  
HE...

AND...

OH,  
YEAH!

HE'S  
ACTUALLY  
REALLY  
GOOD!  
HE MIGHT  
BE SHRIMPY,  
BUT HE'S  
ON THE  
BASKETBALL  
TEAM AND HE  
PRACTICES  
REAL HARD!

BUT HE'S  
NOT ALL  
THAT BAD,  
YOU  
KNOW?!



LAST  
CHRIST-  
MAS,  
HE...



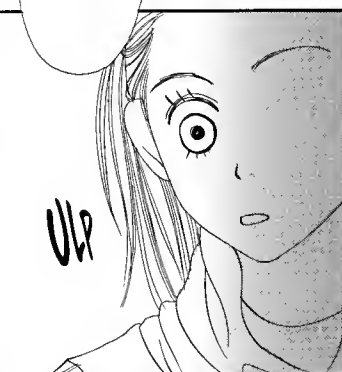
HE  
HELPS  
ME OUT  
WHEN  
I'M IN  
TROUBLE,  
LIKE,  
A LOT!

AND...



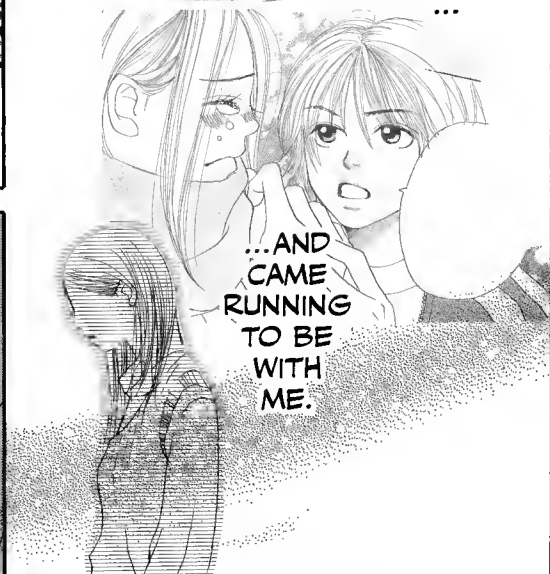


...RISA?



BLEW  
OFF  
SEEING  
HIS OLD  
GIRL-  
FRIEND

...



...UH-  
HUH.

ha  
ha  
ha  
ha

HE MIGHT  
BE SHORT,  
BUT HE  
ISN'T SUCH  
A BAD GUY,  
THAT'S ALL!



RISA,  
DON'T  
TELL ME  
YOU'RE...

...WHY  
AM I  
DEFENDING  
ÔTANI,  
OF ALL  
PEOPLE?

...YEAH.

...KOIZUMI  
...

ENOUGH  
OF THAT,  
YOU  
GUYS!!

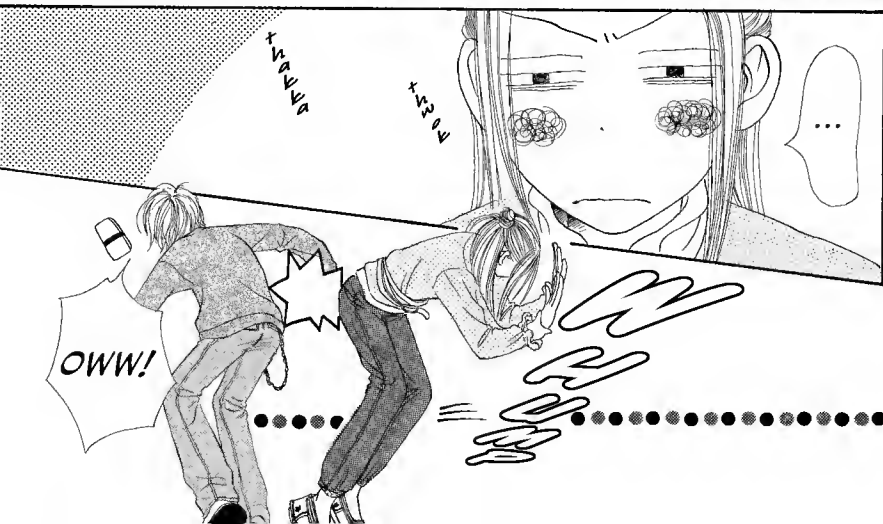
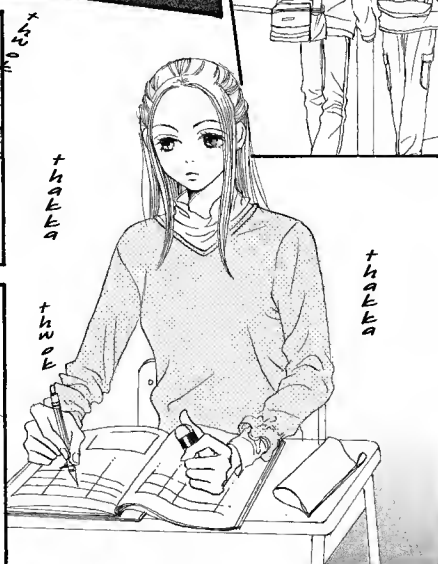
I really  
think  
these  
feelings  
I have  
for you...

...might  
be  
love.

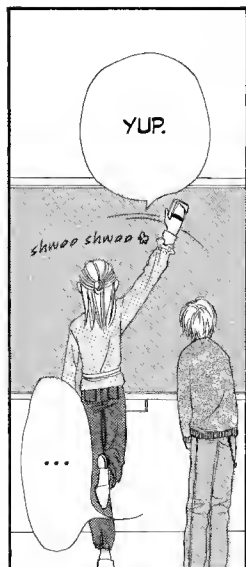
# Cleaning Duty Koizumi Ôtani

thaka

Yeah, I wanna  
pick up  
some  
manga.  
Wanna  
stop  
some-  
where?

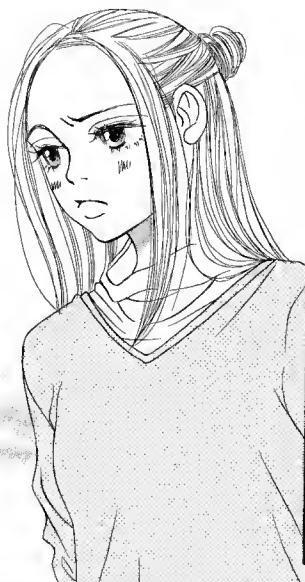


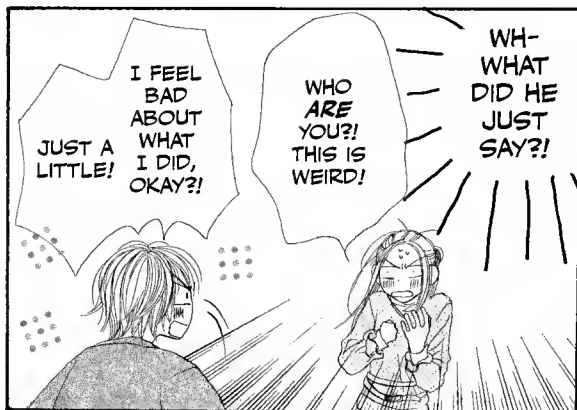


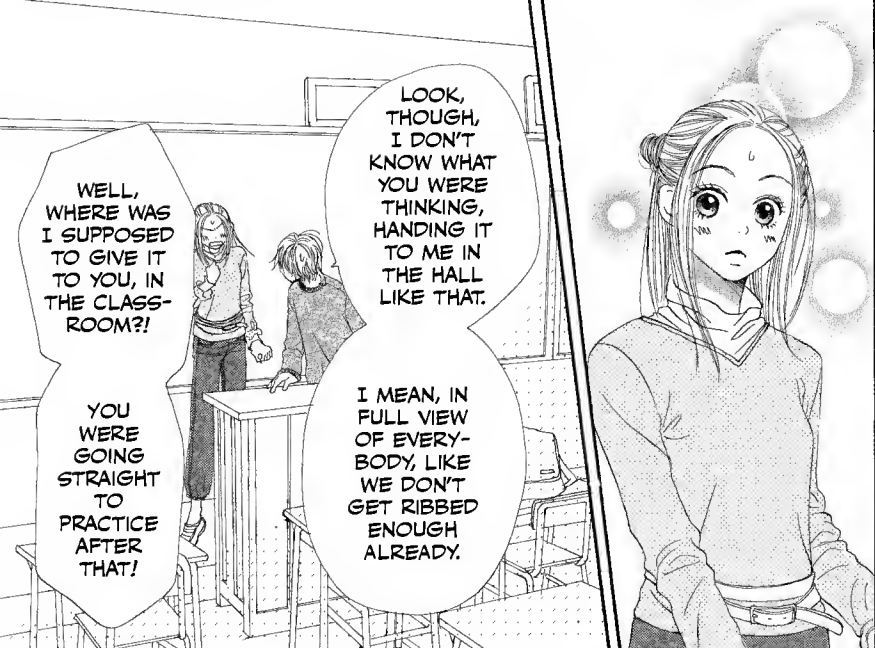


It really made his day. Boy is it nice to be appreciated!!







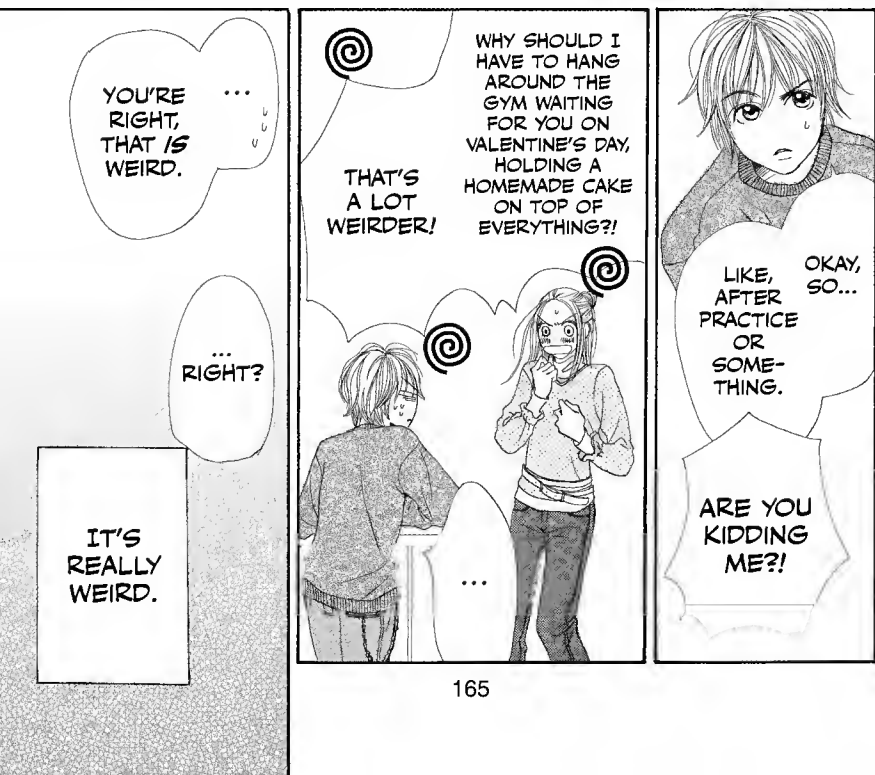


WELL,  
WHERE WAS  
I SUPPOSED  
TO GIVE IT  
TO YOU, IN  
THE CLASS-  
ROOM?!

LOOK,  
THOUGH,  
I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU WERE  
THINKING,  
HANDING IT  
TO ME IN  
THE HALL  
LIKE THAT.

YOU  
WERE  
GOING  
STRAIGHT  
TO  
PRACTICE  
AFTER  
THAT!

I MEAN, IN  
FULL VIEW  
OF EVERY-  
BODY, LIKE  
WE DON'T  
GET RIBBED  
ENOUGH  
ALREADY.



YOU'RE  
RIGHT,  
THAT *IS*  
WEIRD.

...

...  
RIGHT?

IT'S  
REALLY  
WEIRD.



THAT'S  
A LOT  
WEIRDER!

WHY SHOULD I  
HAVE TO HANG  
AROUND THE  
GYM WAITING  
FOR YOU ON  
VALENTINE'S DAY,  
HOLDING A  
HOMEMADE CAKE  
ON TOP OF  
EVERYTHING?!



...



OKAY,  
SO...  
LIKE,  
AFTER  
PRACTICE  
OR  
SOME-  
THING.

ARE YOU  
KIDDING  
ME?!



I MEAN,  
LOOK  
AT ME.

...JUST  
BECAUSE  
HE DIDN'T  
WANT MY  
VALENTINE.

THAT'S  
WHAT'S  
THE  
WEIRDEST.

AT HOW  
HURT AND  
ANGRY  
I'VE BEEN  
FEELING  
...



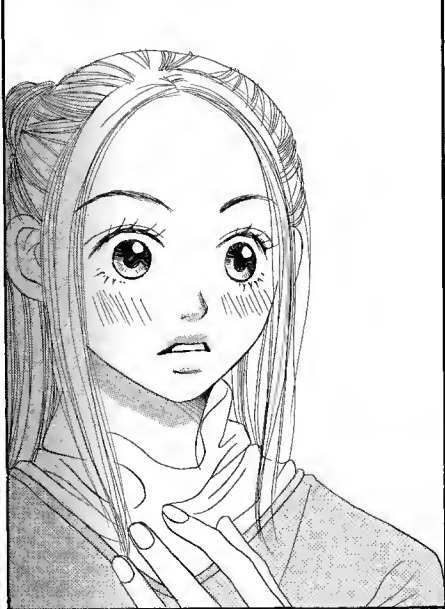
I  
MEAN...



...THE  
WAY I  
REACTED  
...

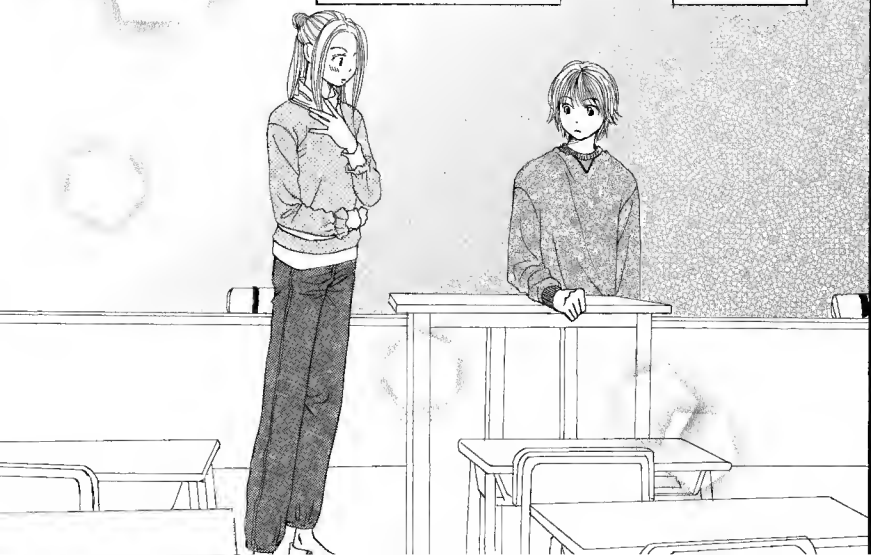
...YOU'D  
THINK...





...TOTALLY  
IN LOVE  
WITH ÔTANI  
OR SOME-  
THING.

...THAT  
I WAS...

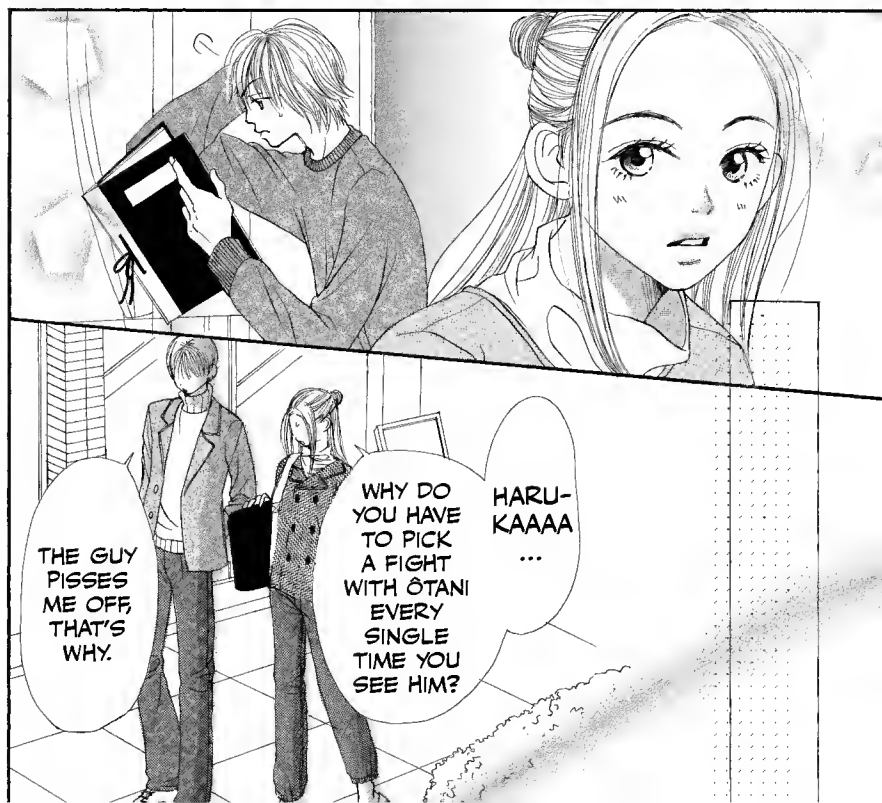


K  
R  
E  
E

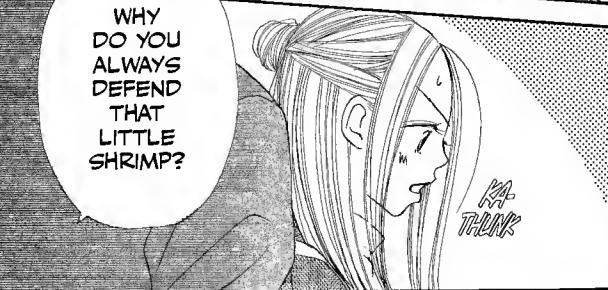
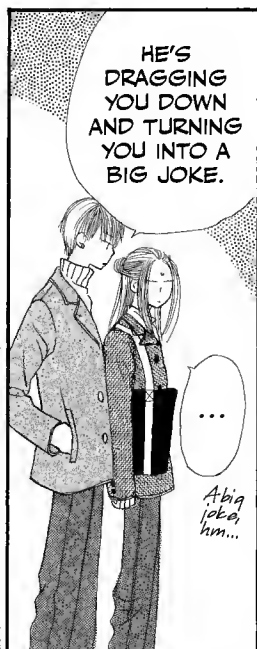












...WITH  
ÔTANI  
...?

...ME, IN  
LOVE...

AS  
IF...

WH-WHAT?!  
WHERE DID  
THAT COME  
FROM?!

WELL, IT  
LOOKS TO  
ME LIKE  
YOU ARE.

AS...

EITHER  
WAY, I AM  
DEFINITELY  
NOT LOSING  
TO ANYBODY  
THAT DINKY.

WELL,  
WHATEVER.

"I'M  
SORRY."

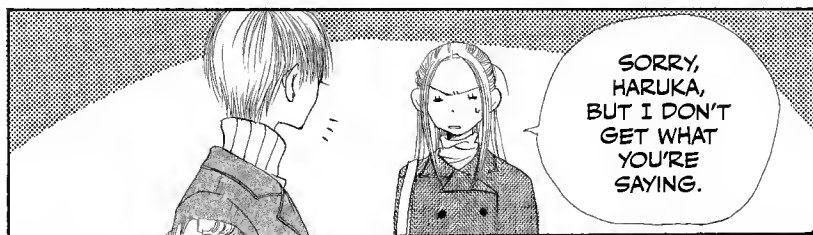


YOU HAVE  
TO FALL IN  
LOVE WITH  
**ME**, RISA.  
YOU JUST  
HAVE TO.

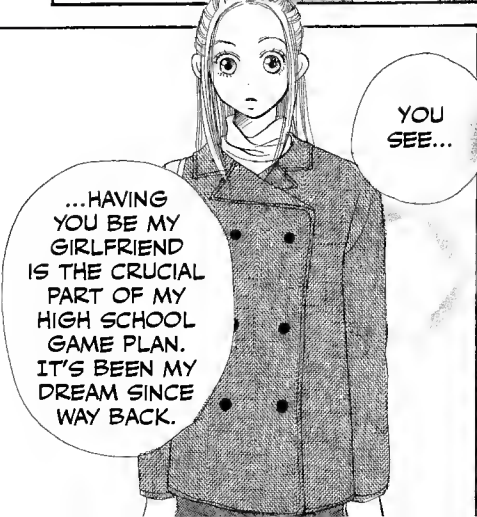
OTHERWISE,  
I DON'T  
KNOW WHY  
I'M TRANS-  
FERRING  
TO YOUR  
SCHOOL IN  
THE FIRST  
PLACE.



HEH?



SORRY,  
HARUKA,  
BUT I DON'T  
GET WHAT  
YOU'RE  
SAYING.

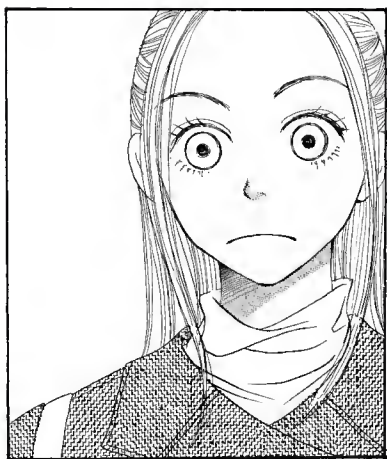


...HAVING  
YOU BE MY  
GIRLFRIEND  
IS THE CRUCIAL  
PART OF MY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
GAME PLAN.  
IT'S BEEN MY  
DREAM SINCE  
WAY BACK.

YOU  
SEE...







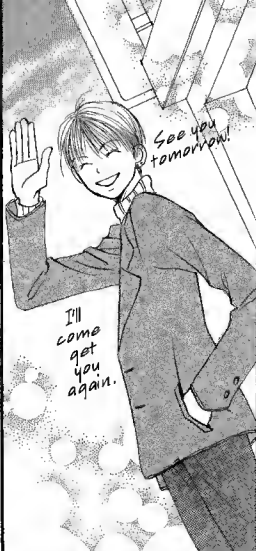
THINK  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
ANSWER,  
OKAY,  
RISA?

I'M GOING  
TO ASK YOU  
TO BE MY  
GIRLFRIEND  
REAL SOON,  
SO...





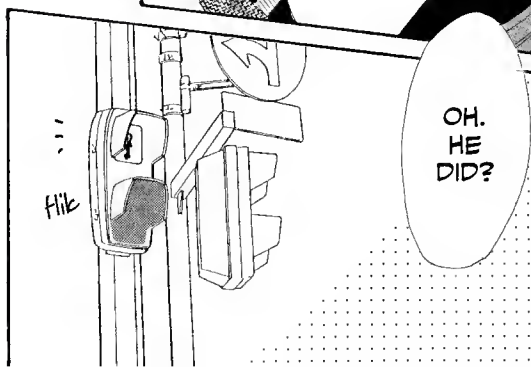
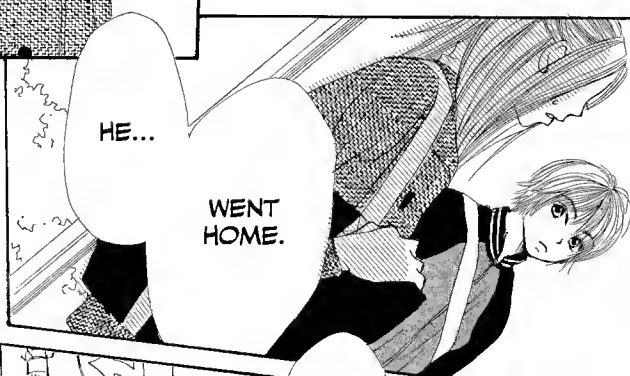
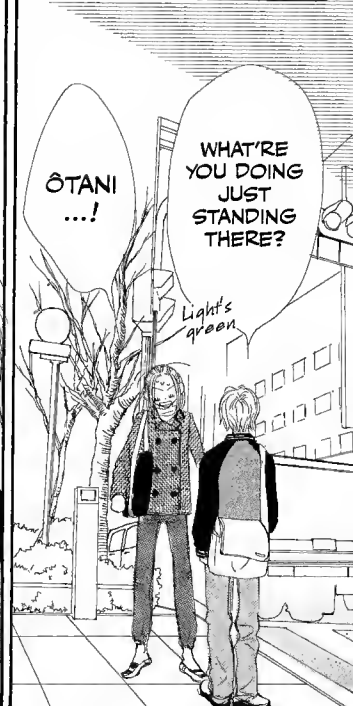
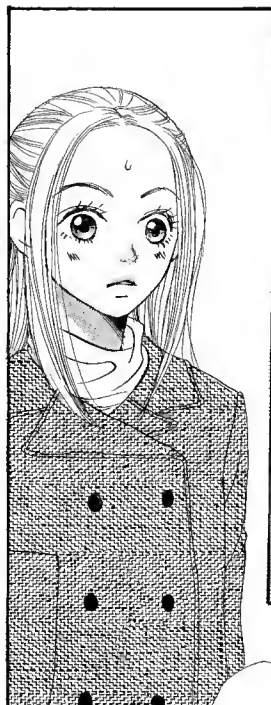
phwwo

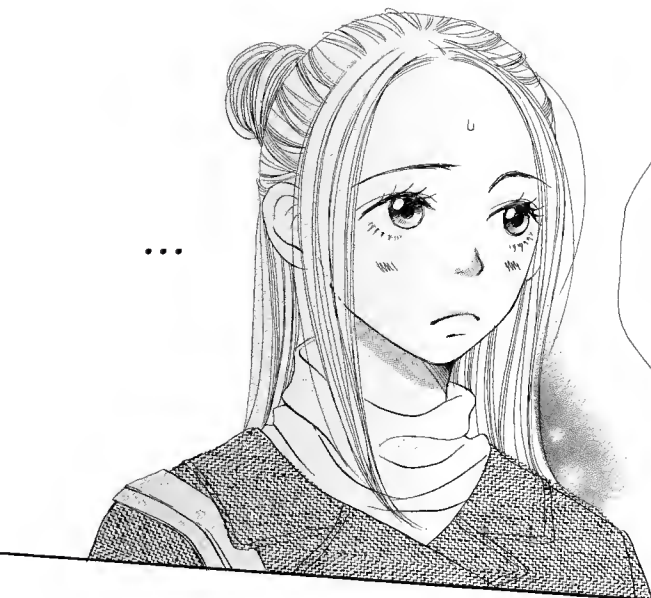


BUT...

HE'S  
GONNA  
ASK ME  
REAL  
SOON...







HEY...

THE  
LIGHT'S  
CHANGED  
AGAIN,  
YOU DOPE.



WHAT'LL  
I DO?

《...to be continued》

# glossary

## **Page 11, panel 5: All Hanshin-Kyojin**

This is Risa and Ôtani's nickname at school, and refers to a comedy team with one tall member and one short member. See volume 1 glossary for more information.

## **Page 23, panel 5: Giant Baba**

The name of a popular and humongous pro wrestler, similar to The Rock or Hulk Hogan.

## **Page 53, panel 2: Oden**

A Japanese hot pot that includes ingredients like daikon, fish cake, boiled eggs and *kanyaku* (yam cake), all simmered in kelp broth. It is considered to be a comfort food.

## **Page 60, panel 6: New Year's wish**

New Year's is the most important Japanese holiday, and it is believed that each year is a fresh start. It is traditional to visit a shrine or temple on New Year's Day with family and friends, and make a wish for the coming year.

## **Page 94, panel 1: Valentine's Day**

Valentine's Day is celebrated slightly differently in Japan than it is in the U.S. Women give chocolates (homemade are the best) to their boyfriends or husbands, although sometimes they'll also gift co-workers or fellow students with purely platonic sweets. The men get their chance to shine on White Day (March 14), a Japanese holiday named for the pure and virtuous image of the color, where guys get a chance to give back to the ladies in their lives. When White Day started in 1980, the gifts included white marshmallows or chocolate. These days, White Day gifts include chocolate, sweets, or other small presents.

## **Page 128, panel 5: Just Friends**

The original Japanese literally says "obligation" or *giri*, as in valentines given out of obligation rather than *honmei*, those given out of love.





It's in an episode that wasn't included in this volume, but there's a wristband that just sorta happened to appear in the story, and well, one thing led to another and a real-life version of it is now actually going to be produced. I've been feeling rather remorseful about it, cuz... I mean, I should've put a lot more thought into making it much cooler... So my feelings about this are kinda... well... *mumble mumble*. But I'm stoked!

**Aya Nakahara** won the 2003 Shogakukan manga award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Horu to Kuuki Nichiyo-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu*

# LOVE★COM VOL 2

Shojo Beat Edition



## STORY AND ART BY AYA NAKAHARA

**Translation & English Adaptation**/Paakie Ralf

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**Editor**/Pancha Diaz

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